

Organization Attributes Sheet: Unnamed Korean Mafia Group

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Various Korean mafia organizations have long operated throughout the Western hemisphere and elsewhere. Substantial numbers of Koreans first immigrated to Mexico in the 1980s. By the 1990s, an unnamed Korean mafia group in the country was extensively involved in a diverse range of criminal activities. The organization had come to dominate the illegal trade in counterfeit goods and was a significant player in the Mexican drug trade and smuggling into the United States.
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug trafficking; human trafficking; weapons trafficking; counterfeit goods production, trafficking, and sales; murder; extortion¹
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug trafficking: the organization is a significant player in the Mexican drug trade, smuggling opium and other narcotics from Mexico to the United States.²• Human trafficking: the group smuggles illegal immigrants into Mexico via the Mexico City airport. The organization reportedly pays a bribe of \$5,000 per illegal immigrant to corrupt airport immigration officials.³• Weapons trafficking: the group is reported to be a significant importer and dealer of black market arms from Vietnam, China, and Taiwan.⁴• Counterfeit goods production, trafficking, and sales: The Korean mafia is responsible for a large proportion of the importation and sale of pirated merchandise from China and Taiwan in Mexico.⁵
C. Scope and Size
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on a series of raids and arrests in Mexico, the Korean mafia's membership in the country likely numbers at least several hundred, possibly more.⁶ In addition, it is unclear how the group operating in Mexico is related to Korean mafia groups operating in numerous countries across the world.
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mexico, United States
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hyo Sung Park Kang⁷• Lee Young Gwang Suck⁸• Han Heung Suck Shoi⁹
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">• Given the Korean mafia's domination of the trade in counterfeit and pirated goods as well as its significant involvement in the trafficking of drugs and persons, the organization operating in Mexico likely possesses considerable financial resources.
b.	Human
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Given the Korean mafia's domination of the trade in counterfeit and pirated goods as well as its significant involvement in the trafficking of drugs and persons, the organization operating in Mexico likely possesses diverse human resources.
c.	Logistical
	i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The group is deeply involved in the production of counterfeit and pirated merchandise.
	ii. Key routes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• China, Taiwan, Vietnam to Mexico and on to the United States¹⁰
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">• The group is known to smuggle illegal immigrants into Mexico by commercial air travel.
	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 Korean mafia is reported to operate in Mexico with the protection of corrupt police and immigration and customs authorities.
b.	Concealment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information not found.
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">• It is likely that the Mexican Korean mafia group has some connection with Korean mafias operating elsewhere in the Western hemisphere and beyond, but exact organizations and types of cooperation are not known.
b.	Corrupt politicians, law enforcement, political parties and other state entities, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Korean mafia makes regular payments to corrupt Mexican law enforcement, immigrations, and customs authorities.

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

<p>c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information not found.
<p>I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Korean
<p>J. Technical Sophistication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderate to High: the large-scale manufacture of counterfeit goods requires a significant amount of technological sophistication and industrial capacity.
<p>K. Penchant for Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderate: based on the diverse range of the Korean mafia's criminal activities in Mexico
<p>L. Activities in United States</p> <p>a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug trafficking <p>b. <i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug trafficking: opium and other illegal drugs¹¹ <p>c. Linkages with US groups</p> <p>i. Market/transaction links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information not found. <p>ii. Stable supplier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information not found. <p>iii. Franchise arrangement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information not found. <p>iv. HQ and Branch office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information not found.
<p>M. Evaluations</p> <p>a. Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unable to determine from available resources. <p>b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unable to determine from available resources. <p>c. Additional insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•
<p>Other Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Korean mafia organizations operate around the world in countries including South Korea,¹² North Korea,¹³ Japan,¹⁴ the Philippines,¹⁵ the Mariana Islands,¹⁶ the United States,¹⁷ Mexico, Peru,¹⁸ Brazil,¹⁹ Paraguay,²⁰ Argentina,²¹ Ukraine,²² Uzbekistan,²³ and Mongolia²⁴ among others. The exact nature of the relationship between the Korean mafia group operating in Mexico and Korean organized crime elsewhere in the world is unknown. However, it is highly probable that the Mexican organization maintains some type of relationship, likely significant, with Korean groups operating in other territories.

¹ "Mexico: Cuban, Russian Mafias Rule Cancun," *El Universal*, August 16, 2008, OSC: FEA20080826759511.

² "Highlights: Mexico Magazine Review 11-17 Mar 07," *Mexico -- OSC Summary*, March 17, 2007, OSC: LAP20070316345001.

³ *Ibid*; and "Highlights: Mexico Magazine Review 20-26 Aug 06," *Mexico -- OSC Report*, August 26, 2006, OSC: LAP20060824345001.

⁴ "Highlights: Mexico Magazine Review 11-17 Mar 07."

⁵ Ibid; LaVerle Berry, et al. "Nations Hospitable to Organized Crime and Terrorism," *Federal Research Division*, Library of Congress, 171, 191, OSC: EUP20070508414003; Ramón J. Miró, "Organized Crime and Territory in Mexico, 1999-2002" *Federal Research Division*, Library of Congress, February 28, 2003, 34, OSC: LAP20070509410001; and "Highlights: Mexican Government Security Initiatives 6-8 Oct 07," *Mexico -- OSC Summary*, October 8, 2007, OSC: LAP20071009470001.

⁶ "Highlights: Mexico Magazine Review 11-17 Mar 07," *Mexico -- OSC Summary*, March 17, 2007, OSC: LAP20070316345001.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² "Japan: DPRK-China-Japan Drug Smuggling Network, Alleged Spy Ship Case Viewed," *Gendai*, June 1, 2002, OSC: JPP20020510000003.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ "Philippine Authorities Arrest 4 Koreans Suspected for Kidnapping Businessman," *Kabayan*, September 6, 2003, OSC: SEP20030907000009.

¹⁶ "Pacific Media Roundup No. 237," *Pacific Island Nations -- FBIS Report*, October 25, 2005, OSC: SEP20051025016016.

¹⁷ "Highlights: Mexico Magazine Review 11-17 Mar 07."

¹⁸ "Highlights: Peru Press 5 Feb 03," *Peru Press Highlights*, February 5, 2003, OSC: LAP20030205000070.

¹⁹ Berry, et al. "Nations Hospitable to Organized Crime and Terrorism," 184.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ "Accord Signed To Control Border Areas," *Gazeta Mercantil*, March 19, 1996, OSC: FTS19960319000593.

²² "Press Selection List: Ukrainian Press," *Open Source Center*, January 7, 1997, OSC: FTS19980106000883 WS0601151398.

²³ "Analyst Says Contenders for Uzbekistani Presidency Offer No Hope of Change," *Centrasia.ru*, January 18, 2003, OSC: CEP20030124000160.

²⁴ "ROK Blog Describes Alleged Growing Mongolian Antipathy Toward Koreans," *Marmot's Hole*, October 12, 2005, OSC: KPP20051016356002.