

Organization Attributes Sheet: Unnamed Russian Caucasus Organization

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">As pertains to Central America and the Caribbean: Drug Trafficking, Arms Trafficking, Kidnapping¹Globally: Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering, Extortion, Theft (Burglary),² Contract Killing³
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drug Trafficking: The group is responsible for smuggling cocaine from South America for distribution in Georgia, Turkey, and Europe⁴Money Laundering: The group is/was using Spain to launder money from its criminal activities.⁵ Money collected from illicit activities was sent to Spain and laundered using small businesses: jewelry, restaurants, mail courier and car repair.⁶
C. Scope and Size
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unable to determine exact size from open source information, however, the spread of the organization across many countries, and even within Spain itself, would suggest that size is not negligible.
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">As pertains to Central America and the Caribbean: Colombia, Panama, Peru⁷Globally: Georgia, Turkey,⁸ Spain,⁹ Greece,¹⁰ Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, Ireland, Belgium¹¹
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kakhaber Shushanasvili (also spelled Shushanashvili) – known Georgian crime boss; arrested in Spain's Operation Java¹²Lasha Shushanasvili (also spelled Shushanashvili) – brother of Kakhaber Shushanasvili; arrested in Athens
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">Hierarchical to some degree – The leaders in Spain appeared to delegate orders to lesser authorities/members
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">Primarily Georgian members, but also Russian and Armenian.¹³ Ukrainians, Kazakhs, and Uzbeks were allegedly also part of the network.¹⁴
c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Centralized to a great degree – The leaders in Spain were, according to Spanish

authorities, in charge of giving instructions and supervising the activities of the chiefs of the gang in the different countries, as well as of collecting the money obtained in a common cash box called "Obschak."¹⁵

F. Resources

a. Financial

- Madrid authorities did not release details about the amount of money involved in the group's criminal activity, but said it involved **millions of euros**. Additionally, "The group wasn't among the most wanted Eastern European organized crime organizations, yet it did represent a significant threat."¹⁶ Members of the group owned several hotels and restaurants in Spain.¹⁷

b. Human

- Information not found.

c. Logistical

i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.

- Information not found.

ii. Key routes

- Information not found.

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

- Information not found.

b. Concealment

- Cocaine was hidden among shipments of scrap metal.¹⁸

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)

- **Zakhar Kalashov/Russian criminal organizations** – Authorities have linked the 24 members arrested in Spain and the 45 members arrested across Europe (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France and Italy) with this Russian/Georgian figure,¹⁹ a "vor v zakone."²⁰ Phone taps by Spanish authorities showed that all arrested suspects venerated Zakhar Kalashov, an alleged Russian/Georgian mafia boss who is on trial in Spain.²¹ Kalashov himself may be connected to one or more of the more powerful Russian criminal organizations: Solntsevskaya and/or Domodedovo²²

b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement, political parties and other state entities, etc.

- Information not found.

c. *Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.*

- 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"> 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"> Unable to determine from available information. b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to determine from available information. c. Additional insights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major arrests to the group (69 members total, including the prominent Shushanasvili brothers) in Spain's Operation Java may have weakened or incapacitated the group. According to Spanish authorities, the group "operated at the most basic levels, though in several countries."²³
Other Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most information regards the group's European activities; it may be that the cocaine smuggling is/was not a primary focus.

¹ "Highlights: Colombia Crime and Narcotics Issues 14 Apr 10," *Colombia -- OSC Summary*, April 14, 2010, OSC: LAP20100414211001.

² Cala, Andres. "Cross-European raids are hailed as a model; Officials in 6 countries worked together for a year to break up a gang," *The International Herald Tribune*, March 17, 2010.

³ Tremlett, Giles and Luke Harding. "Scores arrested as police in six EU states swoop on Russian mafia: Georgian gang boss among those held in Barcelona Crime HQ said to be Spain, with tentacles in Europe," *The Guardian* (London), March 16, 2010.

⁴ British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), "Georgia arrests five on charges of involvement in international drug cartel," BBC Worldwide Monitoring, *LexisNexis Academic*, 3 June 2010.

⁵ Cala, Andres. "69 are arrested for ties to Georgian crime ring," *The International Herald Tribune*, March 16, 2010.

⁶ Cala. "Cross-European raids are hailed as a model; Officials in 6 countries worked together for a year to break up a gang."

⁷ BBC, "Georgia arrests five on charges of involvement in international drug cartel."

⁸ Ibid; and Cala. "Cross-European raids are hailed as a model; Officials in 6 countries worked together for a year to break up a gang."

⁹ Cala. "69 are arrested for ties to Georgian crime ring."; and Cala. "Cross-European raids are hailed as a model; Officials in 6 countries worked together for a year to break up a gang."

¹⁰ Cala. "Cross-European raids are hailed as a model; Officials in 6 countries worked together for a year to break up a gang."

¹¹ Ibid.; and Tremlett and Harding.

¹² "Spanish police arrest six in raids against Eastern European mafias," Madrid *elmundo.es*, June 16, 2010, OSC: EUP20100616950048.

¹³ Cala. "69 are arrested for ties to Georgian crime ring."; and Cala. "Cross-European raids are hailed as a model; Officials in 6 countries worked together for a year to break up a gang."

¹⁴ "Spanish police arrest six in raids against Eastern European mafias," OSC: EUP20100616950048.

¹⁵ "Spanish police arrest suspected heads of Russian mob-led network," *Madrid El Pais.com*, March 16, 2010, OSC: EUP20100316950029.

¹⁶ Cala. "Cross-European raids are hailed as a model; Officials in 6 countries worked together for a year to break up a gang."

¹⁷ "Spanish police arrest six in raids against Eastern European mafias," OSC: EUP20100616950048.

¹⁸ BBC, "Georgia arrests five on charges of involvement in international drug cartel."

¹⁹ "Spanish police arrest suspected heads of Russian mob-led network," OSC: EUP20100316950029.

²⁰ BBC, "Spanish court convicts Georgian mob boss of money laundering – details," BBC Worldwide Monitoring, *LexisNexis Academic*, 2 June 2010.

²¹ Kalashov's nationality is reported differently in various sources; Keeley identifies him as Russian, while the BBC report identifies him as Georgian. Keeley, Graham. "Mafia boss arrested in raids across Europe on drug gangs and arms traffickers," *The Times* (London), March 16, 2010.; and BBC, "Spanish court convicts Georgian mob boss of money laundering – details."

²² BBC, "Georgian policemen "too afraid" to testify in Spain against mob boss," BBC Worldwide Monitoring, *LexisNexis Academic*, 5 November 2009.

²³ "Spanish police arrest suspected heads of Russian mob-led network," OSC: EUP20100316950029.