

Informe del Departamento de Estado de EU sobre Drogas 2009

COLOMBIA

Cultivo/Producción:

Los EU y la ONU reportaron significativos declives en el cultivo de coca y la producción potencial de cocaína en el 2008. El USG reportó que el cultivo de cocaína bajó un 29% en comparación al 2007, de 167,000 a 119,000 hectáreas, el declive mas grande que se ha reportado por los EU, y el primer decrecimiento desde el 2002. Los EU acreditaron que la erradicación manual prevaleció a ala aérea en el 2008 y reportó un decrecimiento en la producción de cocaína pura en un 39 % de 485 toneladas métricas en el 2007 a 295 en el 2008. La ONU reportó una caída en el cultivo de cocaína de 81,000 hectáreas en 2008, y un 28% en la caída de producción de cocaína con un potencial de 430 toneladas métricas.

Cultivos 2007 (USA)	Cultivos 2008	%
167,000 hectareas	119,000 Hectáreas	29%
Cocaína pura 2007 (USA)	Cocaína pura 2008	%
485 toneladas	295 toneladas	39%
ONU		
Reducción de los cultivos 2008	81,000 hectáreas	
Producción de coca se redujo con un potencial de	430 toneladas	28%

Las diferencias en las cifras, dice el informe, se deben a la diferencia metodológica en que se efectuaron los reportes. Los informes también revelan la existencia de coca menos sana, menos densa y en menos campos. Los cultivos se han alojado en las fronteras de Ecuador y Venezuela donde la erradicación aérea está prohibida. (No se hacen fumigaciones aéreas a 190 kilómetros de las fronteras internacionales por la objeción de os países vecinos). La erradicación manual se efectuó a paso lento en estas zonas donde también son peligrosas por lo aisladas que están y el dominio que tienen las FARC sobre las mismas.

Después de haber logrado un record de erradicación manual de 967000 hec'tareas en el 2008, este tipo de erradicación se redujo en el 2009 a solo 70,000 debido a problemas de presupuesto. El gobierno de Colombia reportó que en el 2009 se eliminaron manualmente aproximadamente 65,000 hectáreas. La erradicación aérea fumigó 104,771 hectáreas, a pesar de que el objetivo eran 100,00 hectáreas, se fumigaron 28,725 hectáreas menos que en el 2008.

Drug Flow/Transit

El mercado de la cocaína y heroína que proviene de Colombia tiene como destino principal los Estados Unidos y Europa. La mayoría sale del Pacífico en lanchas

rápidas o semisumergibles. Esta ruta supone la descarga de contrabando en alta mar o en el litoral de los países de América Central y México por tierra transbordo a los Estados Unidos. Vuelos no comerciales con droga hacia los Estados Unidos también parten de los puertos a lo largo de la costa caribeña de Colombia, aeronaves no comerciales pequeñas parten de pistas clandestinas de Colombia. Durante 2009, hubo 32 vuelos ilegales detectados en Colombia, una reducción del 95 por ciento respecto a 2003. El reducido número de vuelos ilegales de Colombia ha permitido el patrullaje de las zonas marítimas, lo que resulta en ocho embarcaciones incautadas y un sumergible hundido en 2009. Un creciente flujo de cocaína colombiana a Europa fue transportada frecuentemente por vía aérea o marítima por las rutas de África Occidental con la complicidad de fuerzas policiales corruptas.

Los traficantes de drogas utilizan sumergibles para mover varias toneladas de cocaína. Estos buques están contruidos de fibra de vidrio o de acero, en cualquier rango de 45 a 82 pies de largo, y puede transportar un promedio de cinco a siete toneladas métricas de cocaína. Tienen un alcance de 2.000 kilómetros y por lo general llevan tres y cincuenta y siete miembros de la tripulación. De Colombia y los esfuerzos de EE.UU. para detectar e interceptar los buques mejorado significativamente con 20 sumergibles interceptados o hundidos en 2009. Colombia aprobó la Ley 1311 del 9 de julio de 2009, que prohíbe la construcción, comercialización y tenencia de SPSS o otros tipos de buques sumergibles.

La mayoría de la heroína colombiana se originó en las zonas altas de Nariño y Cauca. De Investigación de inteligencia indica que los envíos de heroína de gran tamaño (5.20 kg) de Nariño fueron transportados a través de vehículos a Quito y Guayaquil, Ecuador, y luego enviados a los EE.UU. a través de múltiples correos. Entre otras rutas de contrabando de vehículos de transporte a lo largo de la costa del Pacífico norte a América Central a través de lanchas rápidas y luego se envían por servicio de mensajería postal a los Estados Unidos. Los envíos que pudieron llegar a América Central arriban a los EU predominantemente a través de México. Además, pequeñas cantidades de heroína (menos de cinco kilos) son transportados a través de correos humanos en la ropa, el equipaje o la ingestión.

Consumo

Colombia también se realizó una Encuesta Nacional de Consumo de Drogas en los Hogares en 2009, la primera encuesta de consumo de drogas en 12 años. Es uno de los estudios más representativos de América Latina con casi 30.000 encuestas realizadas, y reveló que el consumo de drogas ilegales va en aumento en Colombia. Veintitrés departamentos tienen centros de tratamiento de drogas. En las zonas de alto consumo como el de Nariño, Caldas, Quindío, Cauca y los departamentos de Boyacá, pero un aumento correspondiente en los centros de tratamiento o la diversidad de tratamiento no ha ocurrido todavía. Los servicios de tratamiento de drogas en Colombia fueron proporcionados por las organizaciones privadas utilizando principalmente la comunidad terapéutica y modelos residenciales.

COSTA RICA

Accomplishments. In 2009, Costa Rican authorities seized 19.7 metric tons of cocaine, of which 10.6 metric tons were seized on land or air and 9.1 metric tons were seized in national and/or joint maritime interdiction operations with U.S. law enforcement. This is down from 21.7 metric tons seized in 2008. The GOCR also seized over 175,805 doses of crack cocaine (up from 157,234 in 2008), 10 kilograms of heroin, nearly 700 kilograms of processed marijuana (down from 4.8 metric tons in 2008), and eradicated over 600,000 marijuana plants (half of the amount eradicated in 2008). They also seized 268 doses of MDMA (3, 4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, or Ecstasy) and 34 kilograms of ephedrine. Additionally, Costa Rican authorities confiscated more than \$1.4 million in U.S. and local currency. The more than 52,000 drug-related arrests made in 2009 represent a raw increase of 17,000 arrests (or 33 percent higher) over 2008. However, understaffing causes a significant prosecution backlog to remain.

BELIZE

Accomplishments. In 2009 the Belize Police Department (BPD), Belize Defense Force (BDF), and Belize National Coast Guard (BNCG) continued to conduct counternarcotics operations with USG assistance. Seizures through September 2009 include: 28.3 kilograms of cocaine, 0.26 kilogram of crack cocaine, 291.5 kilograms of marijuana, 3.6 kilograms marijuana seeds, as well as 423 kilograms of ephedrine, worth \$1.7 million. A total of 1,299 arrests were made during this period. Belize's dismal seizure rates reflect law enforcements' need to focus on day-to-day patrolling in response to a growing crime rate that detracts from their ability to develop the intelligence necessary to take down major traffickers and their organizations.

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

Accomplishments. During the first 11 months of 2009, Dominican authorities seized approximately 4.4 metric tons of cocaine, 1.4010 metric tons of marijuana, 39 kilograms of heroin, 10,166 tablets of Ecstasy, and 1.3 million tablets of pseudoephedrine. During Operation Firewall, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Dominican Customs confiscated \$608,400 in U.S. currency.

EL SALVADOR

El Salvador is a transit country for cocaine and heroin sent from South America to the United States via land and sea.

Overall in 2009, the PNC seized a total of 1,769 kilograms of powdered cocaine, 2.5 kilograms of crack cocaine, 5 kilograms of heroin, and 323 kilograms of bulk marijuana. Consistent with the fact that the majority of illicit drugs flowing through the region appear to be using maritime routes, the majority of cocaine seizures for 2009 were the result of maritime interceptions. Land seizures primarily resulted from searches of stopped vehicles and inspections of passengers and luggage transiting on long-haul bus routes.

In 2009, the DAN confiscated \$939,845 in undeclared bulk cash from travelers transiting Comalapa International Airport and other international land border crossings adjacent to Honduras and Guatemala. The Financial Investigative Unit (FIU)

of the Attorney General's office seized \$819,000 in funds from drug-related financial crime. However, the GOES did not make any significant advances in 2009 in terms of improving its ability to detect, investigate, and prosecute money laundering and financial crime.

Drug Flow/Transit. Traffickers use go-fast boats and commercial vessels to smuggle cocaine and heroin through the Eastern Pacific transit routes along El Salvador's coastline. Land transit of cocaine and heroin from Colombia is typically along the Pan-American Highway. Most land transit consists of drugs carried in the luggage of commercial bus passengers or in hidden compartments of commercial tractor-trailers traveling to Guatemala.

GUATEMALA

Drug trafficking throughout the region continues to challenge Central American governments. Guatemala is at the epicenter of the drug threat.

Accomplishments. Guatemala seized more than a 100 percent more illegal drugs in 2009 than in 2008, including 11.8 metric tons of pseudoephedrine, 7.1 metric tons of cocaine (not including the 4.9 metric tons seized from a semi-submersible by the U.S. Coast Guard inside Guatemala's Economic Exclusion Zone), and 950 grams of heroin. This increase was in part the result of a better trained and equipped counternarcotics police (DAIA), improved Guatemalan interagency cooperation, the support of the Aviation Support Program (ASP) to the Guatemalan Air Interdiction Joint Task Force (FIAAT), and, especially, the implementation of the wire intercept program run by the Attorney General's Office (MP) and the police.

Cultivation and Production. Guatemala continued to be a minor producer of poppy and opium derivatives for export, as well as a grower of low-quality marijuana that is sold on the domestic market. There was strong evidence that Mexican cartels are managing Guatemalan poppy production, providing seed and guaranteeing purchase of opium latex and morphine base from Guatemalan smallholders.

Drug Flow/Transit. Guatemala is bordered by the Caribbean Sea in the north and the Pacific Coast in the south. Its geographic location makes it ideal for the transit of large quantities of drugs through its coastal waters. Significant amounts of cocaine passed through Guatemala (approximately 250 metric tons—which does not include cocaine that transited Honduras before arriving in Guatemala, as indicated in last year's report). Go-Fast boats used the littorals of Guatemala to introduce large amounts of drugs into the coastal areas; and manned semi-submersibles transported drugs in large volumes.

HONDURAS

Accomplishments. In 2009, the GOH seized 6.6 metric tons of cocaine, 2,795 stones of crack cocaine, 923 kilograms of marijuana, 13 ounces and 60 capsules of heroin, and nearly 2.8 million pseudoephedrine pills.

Drug Flow and Transit. Although the USG estimates that the amount of cocaine departing South America en route to the United States has slightly decreased since 2007 (at least 5 percent from 2007 to 2008 and perhaps even more for 2008 to 2009),

the amount of cocaine transiting to or through Honduras increased from about 182 metric tons in 2008. Based on the first three quarters, cocaine arriving or passing through Honduras via air and maritime cases and events in 2009 was projected to exceed 200 metric tons.

The most visible change in narcotics trafficking in Honduras for 2009 was in the number of suspect air tracks to and through the country. Joint Inter Agency Task Force South (JIATF-S) recorded 31 total suspect air tracks, which delivered narcotics to Honduras in calendar year 2008. As of September 29, 2009, there were 44 Honduran suspect air tracks.

As with air activity, maritime cases increased for 2009 through September to 150 maritime cases and events, compared to 103 in all of 2008.

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua remains a maritime and land transshipment route for South American cocaine and heroin smuggled to the United States. Nicaragua has also been identified as a producer and supplier of methamphetamine.

In 2009, Nicaragua law enforcement authorities seized 9.8 metric tons of cocaine, 5 kilograms of heroin, 372.12 kilograms of pseudoephedrine, and arrested 214 drug violators. These figures represent major bulk drug seizures and arrests.

Cultivation/Production. Methamphetamine: In 2009, as a result of heightened awareness urged by the U.S. to the danger of methamphetamine production, Nicaraguan authorities seized 372.12 kilograms of illicitly-diverted pseudoephedrine, 56 kilograms of amphetamine and dismantled one clandestine lab containing 30 kilograms of sulfuric acid, 1,200 kilograms of toluene and assorted equipment used in the illicit production of methamphetamine.

Drug Flow/Transit. Cocaine, heroin and currency are the contraband that most commonly transit Nicaragua. During this calendar year, these three commodities were trafficked via maritime and land conveyances, in large and small quantities, without discrimination. Cocaine and heroin are smuggled northbound, while currency shipments are usually interdicted on their transport south. In 2009, traffickers exploited Nicaragua's Pacific and Caribbean coastlines, as well as its two large inland lakes to transship contraband drugs and currency through the country. Small go-fast boats are the most commonly used conveyance for this purpose. The Caribbean Coast, in particular, is sparsely populated, has high unemployment and severe poverty, suffers from endemic corruption among officials and lacks adequate physical infrastructure that would permit more persistent law enforcement and interdiction presence by Nicaraguan authorities. Traffickers also take advantage of the Pan-American Highway traversing through the center of Nicaragua to transship cocaine, heroin and currency through the country concealed in vehicles with hidden compartments or "caletas." Tractor-trailers are the most commonly used conveyance, followed by personally-owned vehicles.

PANAMA

Panama is a major logistics and transshipment point for both legal and illegal products due to its geographic position and well-developed maritime and transportation infrastructure. In addition to rising drug trafficking through Panama by Colombian, Mexican, and other drug trafficking organizations, the presence of Colombian illegal armed groups in the Darien region of Panama is contributing to rising crime, violence, and gang presence throughout the country.

Panama receives a significant quantity of South American cocaine and heroin destined for the U.S. and other global markets. With increased counternarcotics efforts in Mexico, drug traffickers are increasing drug transshipment routes through Central America. Traffickers utilize Panama's coastline to move drugs, supplies, and other illicit products between land and water to evade law enforcement. Panama's infrastructure, including four major containerized seaports, the Pan-American Highway, and the rapidly growing Tocumen international airport facilitate drug movement. Smuggling of weapons and drugs continues to take place, particularly along the Pacific Coast of the Darien region near the Colombian border, the Azuero peninsula, the porous border with Costa Rica, and the sparsely populated Caribbean coastal areas.

Accomplishments. Panama reported seizing over 54 metric tons of drugs in 2009, including 52.4 metric tons of cocaine and 1.8 metric tons of marijuana, according to seizure data from the Panamanian Drug Prosecutors Office. The data includes cocaine captured by GOP forces, but does not include cocaine interdicted by U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) assets in Panamanian waters or cocaine jettisoned by traffickers to avoid prosecution. Police also seized over \$11 million in cash linked to drug trafficking, 90 kilograms of heroin, and made 1,157 narcotics-related arrests.

Drug Flow/Transit. Panama is a major logistics and transshipment point for both legal and illegal products due to its geographic position and well-developed maritime and transportation infrastructure. Drug traffickers move South American drugs along Panama's relatively unguarded Pacific and Atlantic coastlines via fishing vessels, cargo ships, and go-fast boats. According to the latest USG estimates, 91 percent of the cocaine directed towards the U.S. transits the Mexico/Central America corridor. Panama's coastlines and rivers are used by drug traffickers to store drugs, fuel, and supplies for go-fast boats. These boats carry drug shipments towards the U.S. Drugs are also moved by air, with aircraft utilizing hundreds of abandoned or unmonitored legal airstrips in Panama for refueling, pickups, and deliveries. In 2009, the GOP reported an increase in seizures on the Pan American Highway, indicating that traffickers are increasingly using ground transportation methods in conjunction with transporting narcotics by air and sea. Panama has developed into a regional commercial air transportation hub, and drug couriers continue to use commercial air flights transiting or originating in Panama to move cocaine and heroin to the U.S. and Europe.

JAMAICA

Jamaica remains the Caribbean's largest source of marijuana for the United States. It is also a transit point for cocaine trafficked from South America.

Accomplishments. Drug-related arrests were relatively stagnant at 6,346 arrests for 2009. Drug seizure levels showed a dramatic decrease with approximately 9 metric tons of marijuana seized compared to nearly 32 metric tons in 2008. The GOJ seized 222 kilograms of cocaine, 2,785 Ecstasy tablets and 3.2 metric tons of hashish.

Drug Flow/Transit. Cocaine smugglers continued to use maritime containers, couriers, checked luggage, and bulk commercial shipments to move cocaine through Jamaica to the United States. There was a noticeable increase by law enforcement in detection of liquid cocaine secreted into consumer goods and luggage. Marijuana traffickers continue to barter for cocaine and illegal weapons.

TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago is a transit country for illegal drugs from South America, principally from Colombia via Venezuela, to Europe and to a lesser extent the United States. The majority of narcotics are destined for other locations due to direct international flights to Europe and the ease of flow within the Caribbean and to Western Africa, and do not have a significant effect on the U.S.

Accomplishments. Joint operations with foreign law enforcement counterparts led to 94 drug trafficking arrests from January to September 2009, an increase of 43 suspects compared to the same period last year. Figures are incomplete due to a lack of reporting from all local law enforcement agencies, but the USG is assisting the GOTT with equipment and training to improve statistical reporting and case tracking. Based on local investigations and data collection, as of September 30, the GOTT had unofficially seized approximately 158 kilograms of cocaine, 11 grams of heroin and almost 2,092 kilograms of cannabis in various forms. The Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG), Organized Crime, Narcotics, Firearms Bureau (OCNFB), Counter Drug and Crime Task Force (CDCTF), Special Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (SAUTT) and other specialized police/military units continued drug interdiction and eradication operations throughout 2009, conducting 32 exercises which resulted in the destruction of 51 fields and 211,420 marijuana plants—an increase of 42,720 plants destroyed from the previous year. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection participated in several joint exercises resulting in the destruction of 25,050 seedlings and 98 kilograms of cured marijuana.

Drug Flow/Transit. Illicit drugs arrive from the South American mainland, particularly Venezuela, on fishing boats, pleasure craft and commercial aircraft. Sizeable quantities of drugs also transit the country through commodities shipments from South America. Drugs are smuggled out on yachts, in air cargo, or by couriers, and during the year, GOTT law enforcement authorities noted an increase in drug swallows transiting Trinidad from Jamaica carrying marijuana and cocaine to the U.S. and Europe. Cocaine has also been found on commercial airline flights from Tobago en route to North America and Europe. Drug seizures reported by U.S. law enforcement officials at their international airports link directly to Trinidad and Tobago.

THE BAHAMAS

Accomplishments. In 2009, the RBPF Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) cooperated closely with U.S. and other foreign law enforcement agencies on drug investigations. Including OPBAT seizures, Bahamian authorities seized 1.823 metric tons of cocaine and nearly 11 metric tons of marijuana from January 2009 through October 2009. The DEU arrested over 1,000 persons on drug-related offenses and seized \$4 million in cash.

GUYANA

Guyana is a transit point for cocaine destined for North America, Europe, West Africa, and the Caribbean, but not in quantities sufficient to impact the U.S. market.

Accomplishments. In 2009, Guyanese law enforcement agencies seized over 137 kilograms of cocaine, compared to 48 kilograms in 2008 and 167 kilograms in 2007. 183 kilograms of marijuana and 2 kilograms of heroin were seized in 2009 (no prior year results were reported). There were 648 criminal charges filed against individuals for activities related to the trafficking or distribution of illicit drugs compared to 473 in 2008. However, Guyanese drug interdiction efforts remain inadequate.

Drug Flow/Transit. While there are no reliable estimates regarding the amount of cocaine or cannabis that transits Guyana, USG law enforcement authorities say that Guyanese narcotics traffickers regularly move shipments of cocaine through the country. Some cannabis cultivated in Guyana is also smuggled out of the country, although in more modest quantities. Guyana's uncontrolled borders and coastline allow unfettered drug transit. Light aircraft land at numerous isolated airstrips or make airdrops where operatives on the ground retrieve the drugs.

Drug Flow/Transit. Clandestine flights from Venezuela remain the primary narcotics threat, with traffickers continuing to use small aircraft to make some offshore air drops and many more land deliveries at clandestine airstrips throughout Haiti. From January to September, there were a total of 17 suspect drug flights to Haiti, as compared to 2008 when 25 suspect drug flights were recorded. As in previous years, go-fast boats also transport cocaine to locations on Haiti's southern coast for shipment to the United States or to the Bahamas and other Caribbean markets.

With assistance from MINUSTAH, the HNP seized over 600 kilograms of Jamaican marijuana and arrested three Jamaicans and a Haitian national who were smuggling the marijuana from Jamaica. Several days later, a HNP roadblock in Leogane yielded an additional 200 kilograms of marijuana.

HAITI

Cultivation/Production. There appears to be increasing cultivation of marijuana in Haiti, mostly intended for the domestic market. In 2008, the BLTS eradicated over 30,000 plants under cultivation in the Artibonite Valley; in 2009, the BLTS eradicated over 12,000 plants in the same region. Cocaine seizures in Haiti fell markedly, from 68 kilos in 2008 to 18 in 2009.

DUTCH CARIBBEAN

(NO TIENE DATOS EXACTOS SOBRE INCAUTACIONES DE DROGA DE NINGUN TIPO)

The Kingdom of the Netherlands consists of Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles, and the Netherlands, with the two Caribbean members having autonomy over their internal affairs.

Under the continued leadership of both the Justice Minister and Attorney General, the GONA continued to strengthen its cooperation with U.S. law enforcement authorities throughout 2009. This cooperation extended to St. Maarten, where the United States and the GONA continued joint efforts against international organized crime and drug trafficking.

The regular Dutch Navy also operates in the Netherlands Antilles under the auspices of Commander Task Group 4.4 (CTG 4.4) which operates in international waters under the oversight of the Joint Inter Agency Task Force (JIATF) South. Over the past three years, the CTG 4.4 has become a close and essential ally of the DEA and other U.S. agencies. Their continual efforts to thwart drug trafficking from the region have been noted at the highest levels of the DEA and U.S. government.

Aruba. Aruba is a transshipment point for increasing quantities of heroin, and to a lesser extent cocaine, moving north, mainly from Colombia, to the U.S. and Europe. Drugs move via cruise ships and the multiple daily flights to the U.S. and Europe. The island attracts drug traffickers with its good infrastructure, excellent flight connections, and relatively light sentences for drug-related crimes served in prisons with relatively good living conditions.

While Aruba enjoys a low crime rate, crime reporting during 2009 indicates that prominent drug traffickers are established on the island. In 2009, Aruba law enforcement officials continued to investigate and prosecute mid-level drug traffickers who supply drugs to “mules.”

EASTERN CARIBBEAN

The seven Eastern Caribbean (EC) countries—Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines—continue to experience significant drug trafficking from South America to markets in the U.S. and Europe. There was an increase in cocaine transiting from Venezuela in 2009. Marijuana, predominantly from Colombia, St. Vincent, and Jamaica, continues to flow into the region in small “go-fast” vessels, larger fishing vessels, yachts and freight carriers.

Antigua and Barbuda. The islands of Antigua and Barbuda are transit points for cocaine moving from South America to the U.S. and European markets. Narcotics entering Antigua and Barbuda are transferred from go-fast boats, fishing vessels, and yachts to other go-fasts, powerboats or local fishing vessels for further movement. Secluded beaches and uncontrolled marinas provide opportunities to conduct drug transfer operations. Marijuana cultivation in Antigua and Barbuda is not significant and marijuana is imported for domestic consumption from St. Vincent and Jamaica.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GOAB) believes that approximately 60 percent of the cocaine that transits Antigua and Barbuda is destined for the United Kingdom, while the United States market accounts for 25 percent. Approximately 10

percent of the cocaine transiting Antigua and Barbuda is destined for St. Martin/Sint Maarten and five percent consumed locally. There were no reports of production, transit or consumption of methamphetamines in Antigua and Barbuda. There is also no legislation that imposes specific recordkeeping on precursor chemicals.

Through September 2009, GOAB forces seized 2.3 kilograms of cocaine, down from 14 kilograms in 2008, and 496 kilograms of marijuana, an increase of 400 kilograms compared to 2008. There were 149 drug-related arrests, up from 125 in 2008 and one major trafficker was prosecuted, down from ten in 2008. Approximately three acres of cannabis fields were discovered in 2009, and during eighteen eradication exercises the GOAB eradicated 11,601 plants, almost 70 percent more than in 2008.

BARBADOS

Marijuana and cocaine are transited through the island in different ways. Marijuana is imported by 8-12 known traffickers who pool their resources to fund a consignment. The drugs arrive on "go-fast" boats or fishing boats on the northern end of the island and distribution for internal consumption and external delivery follows. Cocaine is imported by the use of pleasure boats, especially yachts. Evidence indicates the importation of cocaine is organized primarily by Trinidadians, Guyanese, Venezuelans, and Colombians. There is no pooling of resources and traffickers each organize their own consignments.

The RBPF reports, for the period January 1 to October 15, 2009, a total of 3,989 kilograms of marijuana were seized, including 22 kilograms by sea. This is down from 4,662 kilograms in 2008. Cocaine seized in 2009 increased to 78.3 kilograms in 2009 from 46 kilograms in 2008. The total number of marijuana plants eradicated for this period was 7,212. Drug-related arrests totaled 149, down from 213 in 2008.

Commonwealth of Dominica. The Dominican police report 259 drug seizures during 2009, compared to 243 in 2008. There were 195 drug-related arrests in 2009 compared to 243 in 2008. About 90 percent of operations were focused on major traffickers. Two were arrested in 2009 compared to only one in 2008. In 2009, a total of 1,415 kilograms of marijuana was seized, up from 842 kilograms in 2008. A total of 294,719 marijuana plants were destroyed compared to 139,769 in 2008. In addition, 30.5 grams of cocaine were seized in 2009.

GRENADA

Grenadian authorities reported seizing approximately 6 kilograms of cocaine, down from 46 kilograms in 2008; 495 cocaine balls (crack cocaine) which is double the amount seized in 2008; 22,037 marijuana plants, up from 14,360 in 2008; 460 kilograms of marijuana, up from 355 kilograms in 2008; and 1,309 marijuana cigarettes, up from 741 in 2008. The decline in cocaine seizures was attributed by Grenadian authorities to increased security and the presence of Naval ships due to the Summit of the Americas held nearby in Trinidad and Tobago.

It is estimated that 80 percent of the cocaine trafficked through Grenada is intended for the United Kingdom (UK), 10 percent for the U.S., 5 percent for Canada and 5 percent for local consumption. Marijuana remains the most widely used drug among Grenadian users. Marijuana is smuggled through Grenada from both St. Vincent and

Jamaica. Local officials estimate that about 75 percent of the volume remains on the island. The remaining 25 percent is destined for other markets, primarily Barbados and Trinidad.

St. Kitts and Nevis.

Trafficking organizations operating in St. Kitts are linked directly to South American traffickers, some of whom reportedly are residing in St. Kitts, and to other organized criminal organizations. Marijuana is grown for local consumption and, while previously concentrated in the mountainous region, there has been an increased level of marijuana cultivation discovered in abandoned sugar cane fields.

From January to October, 2009, GOSKN officials reported seizing only one half kilogram of cocaine and 44 kilograms of marijuana. This is down from 78 kilograms of cocaine and 155 kilograms of marijuana in 2008. There were no reports of production, transit or consumption of methamphetamines in St. Kitts or Nevis.

Marijuana eradication exercises in 2009 resulted in 104,571 marijuana plants being eradicated, up from 83,309 plants in 2008.

St. Lucia. There has been an increase of both cocaine and marijuana transiting St. Lucia from South America en route to the U.S. and European countries.

For the calendar year ending September 30, 2009, the Government of St. Lucia (GoSL) reported seizing 93 kilograms of cocaine. This represents an increase from 2008 when only 21 kilograms were seized, but is still far below the 792 kilograms figure reported for 2007. The GoSL seized 540 kilograms of marijuana for 2009, up slightly from the 2008 total of 534. More than 70 percent of all arrests made in 2009 were drug related. In 2009, 270 people were arrested, down from 318 in 2008.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines. St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the largest producer of marijuana in the Eastern Caribbean and the source for much of the marijuana used in the region.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has also become a storage and transshipment point for narcotics, mostly cocaine, transferred from Trinidad and Tobago and South America on go-fast and inter-island cargo boats. Boats off-loading cocaine and weapons in St. Vincent and the Grenadines will return to their point of origin carrying marijuana.

Through 2009, Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (GOSVG) officials reported seizing only 8 kilograms of cocaine, up from 5 kilograms in 2008. Information from the GOSVG indicates that SVG drug traffickers are meeting the traffickers from South America at sea and transporting the drugs directly to Dominica, without the drugs landing in St. Vincent. They also seized 481 cocaine rocks, increased from 316 in 2008 and 8,911 kilograms of marijuana, half the amount seized in 2008. For the first time, a small quantity of heroin (5 grams) was seized.

There has been an increase in drugs transiting St. Vincent, mainly cocaine from Venezuela via Trinidad and Tobago, and a prevalence of crack cocaine use in some communities. The Caribbean market makes up approximately 50 percent of marijuana consumption from SVG, with the U.S. accounting for 15 percent, the UK and Europe together at 23 percent, Canada 10 percent, and 2 percent for local consumption. There

were no reports of production, transit or consumption of methamphetamines in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

FRENCH CARIBBEAN

(NO REPORTA INCAUTACIONES)

French Guiana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, the French side of Saint Martin, and St. Barthelemy are all overseas departments of France and therefore subject to French law.

Drug Flow/Transit. Cocaine from Colombia and Central America as well as cannabis from a variety of nearby countries is transshipped through islands in the French Caribbean en route to Europe and, less frequently, to the United States. French law enforcement worked closely with British, Dutch and American law enforcement and military officials to monitor and prevent the flow of drugs transiting the area by air and by sea.

CUBA

Accomplishments. Between January and September 2009, the GOC seized 3,008 kilograms of narcotics—nearly double the amount seized in 2008, including 86 packets of narcotics wash-ups (1,037 kilograms of marijuana, 2 kilograms of cocaine, and 31 kilograms of hashish). Washed-up narcotics are aggressively collected and securely stored for eventual incineration to avoid sale on the internal market. According to the GOC, this increase did not signify an increase of drug use or demand in Cuba; rather, several cases during the year yielded higher net interdiction amounts than did cases in 2008.

In July, Cuban authorities secured a small aircraft and its Jamaican crew of three after having made an emergency landing in Camagüey Province. Prior to landing, the crew discarded 13 bales of marijuana totaling 465 kilograms into a nearby field.

In all, 164 travelers were detained during 154 interventions for possession of small quantities of narcotics, believed to be for personal use. In those cases, the GOC fined those tourists and the narcotics were seized.

VENEZUELA

Venezuela is a major drug-transit country; flows of drugs to the United States, Europe and West Africa via Venezuela increased sharply in 2009. Venezuela continues to suffer from high levels of corruption and a weak judicial system.

A permissive and corrupt environment in Venezuela, coupled with increased drug interdiction efforts in the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico, has made Venezuela one of the preferred routes for trafficking illicit narcotics out of South America. While the majority of narcotics transiting Venezuela move directly to the United States and Europe, a growing portion also flows through western Africa and then onwards to

Europe. The trafficking of drugs has increased the level of corruption, crime, and violence in Venezuela.

Law Enforcement Efforts. According to the ONA, seizures of all illicit drugs within Venezuela increased from 40 metric tons in 2008 to 60.2 metric tons in 2009. This is still far below the 2005 peak of 152 metric tons when the United States and GOV cooperated fully in counternarcotics activities. In total, the GOV reported seizing 81 kilograms of heroin, 32.3 metric tons of marijuana, 27.7 metric tons of cocaine and 90 kilograms of bazuco and crack cocaine last year. The GOV does not permit the USG to confirm its seizures nor are other countries permitted to verify the destruction of seized illicit drugs. Moreover, these figures include seizures made by other countries in international waters which were subsequently returned to Venezuela, due to the seized vessel having Venezuelan registry.

Venezuelan counternarcotics commandos successfully raided more than 15 high capacity drug processing labs along the border with Colombia in 2009. Seizures of more than one metric tons of cocaine, destined for shipment via containers, were made in the ports of Puerto Cabello and La Guaira.

Drug Flow/Transit. The majority of illicit drugs transiting Venezuela are destined for the United States, Europe, and West Africa. Drug traffickers now routinely exploit a variety of routes and methods to move what the United States estimates to be hundreds of metric tons of illegal drugs on the Pan-American Highway, the Mata and Orinoco Rivers, the Guajira Peninsula, and dozens of clandestine airstrips. Illicit narcotics destined for the United States from Venezuela are shipped through the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Central America, Mexico, and other Caribbean countries. Narcotics destined for Europe are shipped directly to several countries in Europe, particularly to Spain, or are shipped through the eastern coastal waters and rivers of Venezuela, Guyana and the Caribbean to West Africa, notably Guinea and Guinea Bissau. Venezuelan traffickers have been arrested in The Netherlands, Spain, Ghana, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia and other countries. In November 2009, the remains of a commercial 727 jet aircraft that departed Venezuela were discovered in the desert of Mali after allegedly delivering several tons of cocaine.

Traffickers continue to use private and commercial aircraft and maritime cargo containers, fishing vessels, and go-fast boats to move the narcotics to principal markets in the United States and Europe. According to the Joint Interagency Task Force-South (JIATF-S), the amount of cocaine moving through Venezuela by private aircraft and maritime means increased from 54 metric tons in 2004 to approximately 143 metric tons in 2009, representing about 60 percent of the total volume of transshipments.

BOLIVIA

Accomplishments. The GOB eradicated 6,341 hectares of coca nationwide in 2009—84 percent (5,359 hectares) in the Chapare, 8 percent (521 hectares) in Yapacani, and 7 percent (459 hectares) in the yungas.

In 2009, the Special Bolivian Counter Narcotics Police (FELCN) seized approximately 1,574 metric tons of coca leaf, 22 metric tons of cocaine base, and 5 metric tons of

cocaine hydrochloride (HCl), totaling approximately 27 metric tons of illicit cocaine product. These illicit cocaine product seizures are fewer than the same period in 2008 and are insufficient to stem rising potential cocaine production. The GOB counternarcotics forces located and destroyed 24 cocaine HCl processing and chemical recycling labs; 4,864 cocaine base labs; and 6,666 maceration pits. In comparison to 2008, forces interdicted fewer base labs and maceration pits, but seized more cocaine HCl processing and chemical recycling labs. These results track the rising prevalence of Colombian-style manufacturing methods, rather than traditional maceration pits, and the increasing presence of Colombian and Mexican drug traffickers in Bolivia.

Additionally, operations intended to disrupt drug labs frequently fail to seize drugs processed at the labs and only result in the arrest of low-level workers. FELCN seized approximately 1,937 metric tons of marijuana; 872 metric tons of solid precursor chemicals; and 1,578,681 liters of liquid precursors in 2009, an increase over prior year results. The lack of DEA or other international law enforcement working with FELCN in the field on a daily basis makes it difficult to independently verify the accuracy of these figures reported by the GOB.

CHILE

Accomplishments. Through June 2009, Chile reported seizures of approximately 1,659 kilograms of cocaine; 2,537 kilograms of cocaine paste; 6,402 kilograms of processed marijuana; and 32,284 units of illegal pharmaceutical drugs. Two police operations resulted in large illegal pharmaceutical seizures, but this does not indicate a new trend. Noteworthy operations included the May 2009 seizure of 243 kilograms of cocaine near Antofagasta in northern Chile. The seizure took place using aerial surveillance and resulted in six arrests.

ECUADOR

Accomplishments. GOE seizures in 2009 totaled 43.5 metric tons of cocaine, including 32.9 metric tons in land-based seizures and 10.6 metric tons in maritime seizures, which was a 98 percent increase over 2008. The GOE also seized 148 kilograms of heroin, and 2.78 metric tons of cannabis. Seizures in 2008 totaled 22 metric tons of cocaine, 144 kilograms of heroin, and 1,980 kilograms of cannabis.

In November the DNA discovered a large-scale cocaine-processing laboratory in the Chiriboga area of Pichincha Province. The laboratory was well-outfitted with two generators, microwave ovens, and three (one) kilo presses. Along with confiscation of small amounts of drugs and chemicals, over \$1,800 in U.S. currency and two vehicles valued at \$26,722 were seized. Four of six related arrests were Colombian nationals.

During October Ecuadorian police, in one coordinated operation covering three provinces, made multiple seizures totaling 8.3 metric tons of cocaine worth an estimated street value of \$250 million dollars. Seizures included eight properties, a cocaine processing laboratory, weapons, and currency. This operation titled "Aniversario," disrupted a drug trafficking organization directly linked to the 48th Front of the FARC, as well as purported trafficking links to Colombia, Mexico, Spain, and the United States.

Cultivation/Production. Ecuadorian police located and destroyed approximately six hectares of cultivated coca plants in scattered sites along the northern border, and 100,530 individual poppy plants, estimated to equate to less than one hectare of poppy production, at scattered sites located throughout Ecuador. No poppy plants were discovered in 2008. In September 2009, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released results of a two-year coca cultivation survey; the survey confirmed that coca cultivation in Ecuador continues to be negligible.

Drug Flow/Transit. Cocaine and heroin from Colombia, and cocaine from Peru, transit Ecuador by various routes for international distribution in shipments ranging from a few hundred grams to multi-ton loads. Shipment methods for illicit drugs and other contraband continued to diversify, including use of small fishing boats, self-propelled semi-submersibles (SPSS), high-speed go-fast boats, and containerized cargo. Another shift in tactics was reported in 2009—by shipping smaller quantities (200-300 kilograms) traffickers could secure illicit cargo on decks allowing speedy jettisoning of suspect cargo overboard at the first sign of detection. This approach diversifies risk and hinders confiscation of costly transport vessels. Although seizures in postal facilities have increased significantly in recent years, traffickers continue to ship drugs via international mail and messenger services, with cocaine generally destined for European markets and heroin for the United States. Postal targets remain a prime target for increased interdictions. There has been a reported rise in the use of shipping containers, and traffickers continued to ship white gas and other precursor chemicals in large quantities from Ecuador to Colombia and Peru for cocaine processing.

PERU

Peru is the world's second largest coca cultivator and producer of cocaine and is a major importer of precursor chemicals used for cocaine production.

Peru is a major cocaine producing country and is also a major importer of precursor chemicals used for cocaine production.

Accomplishments. In 2009 DIRANDRO destroyed 2,519 cocaine-production laboratories, including 25 cocaine hydrochloride (HCl) and 2,494 base laboratories in the UHV and the VRAE; and destroyed 1,016 metric tons of dry and macerated coca leaf. The GOP disrupted the production and transshipment of cocaine through operations on land, sea, and air, seizing more than 10.4 metric tons of HCl and 9.3 metric tons of cocaine base, and 1.8 metric tons of marijuana in 2009. (Note: Seizure rates are inflated, as authorities occasionally cite gross weight of a seizure rather than the net weight of the cocaine—such as when the September 4.3 metric tons seizure of cocaine found in 80,000 cans of artichokes included the entire content of the cans, rather than just the cocaine which constituted perhaps half the gross weight.)

The amount of cocaine seized by Peruvian authorities in 2009 was less than the amount seized in 2008. Similarly, although eradication reduced the number of hectares of illicit coca cultivation by 10,025 in 2009, the number of hectares of coca under cultivation nationally increased by 14 percent in 2008 compared to 2007. In the

area of the UHV where eradication was undertaken, however, cultivation decreased by almost 50 percent from 2007 to 2008.

In 2009, Operation Chemical Choke resulted in the seizure of over 17.2 metric tons of acetone, 8.2 metric tons of hydrochloric acid, and 22.3 metric tons of sulfuric acid and the arrest of several chemical traffickers.

Cultivation and Production. The official U.S. Government estimate for 2008 indicated that 41,000 hectares of coca were under cultivation in Peru, a 14 percent increase from the 36,000 hectares in 2007. (The USG estimate is at variance with United Nations Office of Drug Control (UNODC) estimate of 56,000 hectares of coca under cultivation in 2008 in Peru.) The 41,000 hectares would potentially produce 215 metric tons of pure cocaine, and 235 metric tons of export quality cocaine. Successful interdiction and eradication actions eliminated approximately 30 percent (46 metric tons avoided by eradication and 19.7 metric tons of HCl and cocaine base seized) of Peru's potential production of cocaine in 2009.

Drug Flow/Transit. Cocaine HCl continues as the principal illicit drug product in Peru, where traffickers use large production laboratories and storage areas to prepare and store it. Cocaine is transported from coca production zones, primarily in the Upper Huallaga and Apurímac Valley regions, to Peru's coastal and border areas for further processing and distribution.

Cocaine is transported over land to neighboring countries, and to Europe, the Far East, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the United States via maritime conveyances and commercial air flights. Maritime smuggling is the primary method for transporting multi-ton loads of cocaine. Colombians and Mexicans operate drug transportation networks in Peru, shipping cocaine to Colombia, Mexico, and the Caribbean. U.S. law enforcement agencies and their host nation counterparts from Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand report that Peruvian cocaine trafficking and transportation organizations operate in the Far East.

In 2009, the PNP eradicated approximately 31.5 hectares of opium poppy and seized 77 kilograms of opium latex. The PNP reported instances of opium latex, intercepted at Lima's international airport, being couriered by "drug mules" and/or mailed to European destinations.

MEXICO

Mexico is both a major transit and source country for illicit drugs reaching the United States. Approximately 90 percent of cocaine destined for the U.S. flows through Mexico from its origins in South America. It continues to be a major supplier of heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine to the U.S.

Mexico also remains a hub for money laundering. It is estimated that DTOs' annual gross revenue ranges between \$15-30 billion from illicit drug sales in the U.S. Most of these proceeds are returned from the U.S. primarily through bulk currency shipments and laundered through legitimate Mexican businesses.

Through October, 5,400 metric tons of methamphetamines were seized by Mexican law enforcement, a significant increase from 2008; 165 labs were destroyed, more

than three times greater than the year before. Part of this is due to the GOM's more focused efforts in pursuing methamphetamine labs.

Through the end of November, 2009, GOM seized 20 metric tons of cocaine (up from 19 metric tons in 2008), 665 kilograms of opium gum (up from 168 kilograms in 2008), and 277 kilograms of heroin. Marijuana seizures were somewhat down from the historical levels of recent years. In 2009, 1,385 metric tons of marijuana were seized, while the previous five years averaged almost 2,000 metric tons. This may be attributed to the military's and law enforcement's reallocation of resources away from marijuana eradication and interdiction efforts, and towards the pursuit of DTOs.

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Production of methamphetamine takes place in clandestine labs. The two areas in the country with the highest concentration of labs are Michoacan and Jalisco. While it is difficult to estimate levels of production for the drug, it is believed to be large and growing. The 5,400 metric tons seized as of November 2009 presumably represent just a fraction of total production. In October 2009, for example, Mexican law enforcement seized a combined 37 metric tons of precursor chemicals used to make methamphetamine in just two raids—the largest such seizures in Mexican history.

Despite the efforts of the GOM, drug cultivation rose significantly in 2009 according to U.S. government agencies' estimates. Opium poppy cultivation more than doubled to 15,000 hectares (ha) as of September 2009 from 6,900 in 2008—the highest level of production ever estimated in Mexico and all of Latin America combined. Cannabis production increased 35 percent to 12,000 ha from 8,900 in 2008—the highest level since 1992. These increases in drug production could represent greater vertical integration of DTO businesses intended to diminish reliance on foreign suppliers of product. Mexico is not considered a significant producer of cocaine, although DTOs continue to transit the drug through the country.

The GOM reported eradicating 14,135 ha of cannabis as of November 2009, as compared to 18,663 ha in all of 2008. This is well down from the yearly 30,000+ ha level of eradication from 2002—2006 and represents the sixth consecutive year of decline. Opium poppy eradication is also down from historic levels, with 11,471 ha reported eradicated as of November 2009, down from 13,189 ha in 2008. Much of this can be attributed to Mexican law enforcement's shift in focus to harder drugs such as methamphetamine as well as more military and law enforcement resources being diverted to confront the DTOs and violence.

Drug Flow/Transit. Mexico is a major transit point for drugs destined for the U.S., particularly cocaine cultivated and produced in South America source countries. Cocaine enters Mexico via air, land, and sea routes. Smugglers employ a wide range of

tools to deliver illicit contraband to the U.S., including light aircraft, fishing trawlers, go-fast vessels, self propelled semi-submersible vessels, automobiles, and trucks. Large commercial vessels are also used, as illegal drugs are transported via large containers into and out of Mexico's commercial shipping ports. Once drugs are inside the country, they are transported to the U.S. border via land routes. The GOM has taken a number of steps to seize drugs entering and transiting the country. It continues to work with governments in Central and South America as well as the United States to coordinate interdiction efforts and share information. In 2009, it upgraded the capabilities of customs agents by providing specialized training to look for weapons and drugs and military checkpoints were placed along key transit routes to inspect northbound traffic for drugs. Additionally, the GOM increased its focus on stopping the flow of methamphetamines.

ONU – CENTRAL AMERICA (2004)

La falta de desarrollo económico se encuentra relacionada con la falta de capacidad de la justicia criminal. Las naciones pobres no pueden gastar en la justicia, tanto como las naciones ricas, y lo anterior se refleja en una respuesta poco adecuada para atender asuntos delictivos.

1.1 Vulnerabilidad geográfica

Centroamérica tiene la poca fortuna de encontrarse ubicada entre los países productores de drogas y los consumidores. El flujo de cocaína de Sudamérica a los Estados Unidos es uno de los ilícitos de mayor valor. Centroamérica ha sido el camino para las drogas por décadas, incluyendo los tiempos de las guerras civiles. De hecho durante ese tiempo, los flujos de drogas impulsaron el conflicto, y la corrupción en los servicios de seguridad se afianzaron en algunos países. Esta corrupción abre la puerta a las otras formas del crimen organizado, incluyendo el tráfico de todo tipo de contrabando (armas de fuego, gente, recursos naturales). Los traficantes de alto nivel, pueden operar con impunidad en algunas áreas, inclusive respecto a los homicidios. El sector financiero se convirtió en vulnerable al lavado de dinero.

Hoy en día, Centroamérica es el camino para alrededor de 450 toneladas de cocaína destinadas a México y a los Estados Unidos. Aún en nivel de venta al público en esta región, este flujo vale alrededor de EUA\$ 10 billones, y en su reventa a los Estados Unidos, vale alrededor de EUA\$ 50 billones. El efecto potencial desestabilizador sobre este flujo masivo de contrabando es considerable. El ingreso anual total de una nación pequeña como Belice, es menor a EUA\$ 600 millones.³ El impacto actual se discute en la sección sobre tráfico de drogas, a continuación.

Para aquellos países en los que hay información disponible, un gran porcentaje de la población de los países de la región viven con menos de dos dólares al día, incluyendo Guatemala (37%), Honduras (44%), El Salvador (58%) y Nicaragua (80%). Nicaragua y El Salvador son más pobres que algunos países en Sub-Sahara Africa.⁴ De conformidad con la Encuesta Gallup World Poll 2006, alrededor del 35% de centroamericanos entrevistados, dijeron que había habido momentos en el pasado, en los que no tenían dinero suficiente para comprar la comida necesaria.

Un indicador más confiable que está correlacionado con los niveles de crimen, es el grado de inequidad en una sociedad.

El desempleo urbano se ve con miras particularmente de criminalidad, ya que los residentes pueden ser requeridos a pagar por la renta y servicios, y no tienen acceso a las alternativas de subsistencia que se presentan en el campo. Tal vez el grupo con mayor riesgo son los jóvenes que no están ni en la escuela ni en el trabajo. En la encuesta nacional que se realizó en Honduras, un gran porcentaje de adolescentes declaró que ni trabajaban ni iban a la escuela, incluyendo el 20% de los jóvenes entre 13 y 15 años y el 28% de los jóvenes entre 16 y 18 años. Centroamérica tiene una población particularmente joven, quienes son susceptibles a ser atraídos por las pandillas que actualmente son un problema en la región, y los cuales supuestamente están jugando un papel muy importante en el tráfico de drogas de dicha región.

Situación policiaca de Guatemala (extracto)

Es un área que ha sido particularmente débil en cuanto al tema de narcóticos. Un oficial del Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos declaró en el 2002: “La policía robó el doble de cantidad de drogas que la que oficialmente decomisaron, y fueron identificados con ejecuciones extrajudiciales relacionadas a drogas por ambos narcotraficantes y civiles.”¹⁹

Panamá es el país con mejores recursos en Centroamérica con respecto a personal, con un nivel de cobertura que excede a los porcentajes vistos en países como Estados Unidos y el Reino Unido. El Salvador y Costa Rica también cuentan con una cobertura adecuada, al menos frente a los números.

Educación en las habilidades de guerra

El tráfico y la organización encubierta son habilidades importantes de la guerra civil. Los insurgentes necesitan aprender a traficar, recibir armas y otros apoyos. Particularmente como los fondos de la Guerra Fría se acabaron, el tráfico de drogas se convirtió en un recurso importante para el financiamiento. Las estructuras estatales también se vieron involucradas, ya sea porque el poder dado a las fuerzas de seguridad durante los tiempos de guerra se vuelve una fuente de corrupción para evadir sanciones internacionales, o porque hay una necesidad de financiamiento fuera de libros para las operaciones encubiertas.

El vínculo histórico entre el tráfico de drogas, el crimen, la insurgencia y las estructuras estatales en Centroamérica ha estado bien documentado. El Subcomité de Narcóticos, Terrorismo y Operaciones Internacionales del Senado de los Estados Unidos, bajo el liderazgo del senador John Kerry, condujo una investigación entre 1986 y 1989 sobre los vínculos entre las actividades de los Estados Unidos en la región y el tráfico de drogas. Esto concluyó, “los carteles [de la droga] han estado involucrados con los gobiernos y movimientos terroristas similares en toda Latinoamérica.”⁴⁵ Hoy en día, 15 años después, los principales partidos políticos e incluso algunos individuos, permanecen en las mismas circunstancias.

Como resultado, miembros ejecutivos de los gobiernos de Latinoamérica, principalmente en estructuras de seguridad, han sido acusados de estar involucrados en tráfico de drogas u otra actividad criminal. En Centroamérica, el expresidente de

Panamá, General Manuel Noriega, está cumpliendo una sentencia de 40 años en una prisión de los Estados Unidos por tráfico de drogas. Las cabezas de las agencias de drogas de Panamá y Guatemala fueron arrestados por tráfico de droga en octubre y noviembre de 2005. Dos ex generales que dirigían la agencia de inteligencia en Guatemala les fueron canceladas sus visas para los Estados Unidos debido a su involucramiento en el tráfico de drogas. Tal y como Ana Arana describe:

En la medida en que el tráfico de drogas se fue al norte, las oportunidades de ingresos y poder que proporciona han sido explotados rápidamente por varios de los mismos grupos que pelearon las guerras civiles de los 80's. En los nuevos conflictos de Centroamérica, los ingresos han desplazado a la política como la ideología gobernante... la guerra entre la violencia criminal y política ha comenzado a borrarse.

Deportación criminal

En los ocho años corridos entre 1998 y 2004, los Estados Unidos deportó alrededor de 46,000 convictos a Centroamérica, así como alrededor desde 36,000 convictos al Caribe. Estas deportaciones son en adición a los deportados por ser simples residentes sin los permisos o visas requeridos. Las deportaciones criminales involucran a personas que han sido convictos de un delito separado – tal como fraude de inmigración, drogas y crimen violento – en base a esto son devueltos a la fuerza a sus países de origen.

Hay una creencia global en ambos, Centroamérica y el Caribe de que los problemas recientes de crimen se pueden vincular directamente con los deportados criminales. Muchos, se asegura popularmente, entraron a los Estados Unidos a una edad joven, y por tanto su conducta criminal se debe a su educación en ese país. Debido a que sus familias se quedaban atrás cuando eran deportados, se dice que llegaban a Centroamérica sin ningún contacto o sin medios de apoyo.

Para mediados de 2004, las prisiones federales y estatales de los Estados Unidos mantuvieron más de 90,000 no ciudadanos, lo cual representaba el 6.5% de la población total de la prisión y más del 20% de la población federal de la prisión, Tres países – El Salvador, Honduras y Guatemala – recibieron más del 90% de las deportaciones hacia América Central en el 2005. No es de sorprenderse que El Salvador, quien tuvo la población más alta de documentados en los Estados Unidos durante el último censo, produce la mayoría de los casos de deportados.

Es muy claro que los deportados han tenido un mayor impacto en la cultura centroamericana de las pandillas, sin embargo, es menos claro si son responsables por los incrementos en las tasas delictivas recientes.

2. Un diagnóstico del estado del crimen en la región

Existen dos áreas fundamentales del crimen en que Centroamérica es remarcable por estándares globales: los volúmenes de droga traficados a lo largo de la región, y las tasas de homicidios. El grupo que más frecuentemente se culpa por esta situación son las pandillas de jóvenes, o los maras, mismos que se alimentan de flujos de deportados criminales de los Estados Unidos.

2.1 Tráfico de drogas

El primer punto a considerarse sobre el flujo de drogas es que es masivo. Sudamérica produce un aproximado de 900 toneladas de cocaína, la cual se envía a 10 millones de usuarios en los Estados Unidos y Europa, un mercado que vale alrededor EUA\$60 millones según datos de 2003.⁸⁶ En el pasado, los volúmenes y el valor fueron mayores. En 1988, Estados Unidos gastó más de EUA\$100 billones en cocaína,⁸⁷ que fue mucho mayor que el PIB regional en ese momento. Algo de esta cocaína todavía se dirige directamente de los productores a los consumidores, pero hoy esta es la gran excepción. La mayoría de estas drogas transitan ya sea por Centroamérica o el Caribe o ambos, por tierra, mar y aire. Además, una gran cantidad de heroína y cannabis también se trafica dentro de la región a los usuarios en el norte.

Existen áreas muy poco vigiladas en varios de los países centroamericanos – incluyendo el Parque de la Laguna del Tigre en Guatemala, Mosquita en Honduras, y la costa atlántica de Nicaragua – que proporcionan estaciones ideales para recargar, re-empaquetar y almacenaje. Las diásporas centroamericanas en Estados Unidos y México proporcionan una red de conspiradores atados étnicamente, y el lenguaje común con ambos países productores en México, el punto más importante de contrabando destinado a los Estados Unidos permite a los traficantes de Centroamérica moverse dentro de la región con facilidad.

Tráfico de cocaína

En los últimos 40 años, el impacto de la demanda de cocaína por los Estados Unidos hacia Centroamérica ha sido muy profundo.

Existen áreas muy poco vigiladas en varios de los países centroamericanos – incluyendo el Parque de la Laguna del Tigre en Guatemala, Mosquita en Honduras, y la costa atlántica de Nicaragua – que proporcionan estaciones ideales para recargar, re-empaquetar y almacenaje.

Esto no quiere decir que los elementos regionales no son cómplices. Mucha gente poderosa se ha vuelto más poderosa sólo por permitir los vicios del norte, y las drogas han enriquecido no a pocos de los empresarios criminales. Pero para la mayoría de los habitantes de esta región, el tráfico de cocaína no ha hecho nada más que corromper a los funcionarios públicos, apoyar la violencia opresiva, y desviar recursos que hubieran sido invertidos en el desarrollo social.

De acuerdo con las estimaciones de Estados Unidos más recientes, alrededor del 88% de cocaína destinada a los Estados Unidos actualmente transita el corredor Centroamérica/México, cerca del 50% a través del pacífico Este (en barcos pesqueros) y 38% a través de la costa del Caribe Oeste (en lanchas rápidas) de Centroamericanos.⁸⁸ Únicamente alrededor del 2% atraviesa Jamaica y el 4% a través de Haití/República Dominicana.

El cartel de Cali de Colombia y los carteles de Medellín prefirieron el corredor del Caribe y lo han utilizado desde finales de los 1970s.⁹⁰ En los 1980s, la mayoría de la cocaína que entraba a los Estados Unidos provenía a través del Caribe y entraba por sur de Florida.⁹¹ Pero eventos de interdicción causó que los traficantes interrumpieran sus rutas. En 1998, cerca del 29% de la cocaína iba a través de

Centroamérica/México, 30% vía el Caribe, y el 11% iba vía por carga marítima comercial directa o por aire.⁹² En 1999, los flujos a través de la frontera mexicana bajaron hasta 54%, los flujos vía el Caribe incrementaron un 43% y únicamente el 3% llegó directamente por Sudamérica.⁹³ Para el 2000, los índices se incrementaron a un 66% por Centroamérica/México y el 33% por el Caribe, con una disminución en el uso por parte de Haití y Puerto Rico y un incremento en el uso por parte de Jamaica.⁹⁴ Para el 2003, el índice era 77% a través de Centroamérica/México y el 22% vía el Caribe (ver Gráfica).

Hoy, el flujo de cocaína desde Sudamérica a los Estados Unidos se estima en alrededor de 500 toneladas, 80% de su travesía se realiza en embarcaciones privadas,¹⁰⁰ de las cuales casi 200 toneladas se perdieron o se decomisaron en tránsito, y 31 toneladas fueron decomisadas en la frontera en el 2005.¹⁰¹ Esto es un cambio significativo con respecto a lo que sucedía en los 1990s, cuando el transporte aéreo predominaba. En términos más concretos, esto sería equivalente a alrededor de 250 toneladas en el pacífico este, 200 toneladas en la costa oeste caribeña de Centroamérica, 10 toneladas a través de Jamaica y 10 toneladas a través de Haití/República Dominicana. Diez toneladas de cocaína aún se venden a un precio de EUA\$ 143 millones en las calles de Estados Unidos, cerca de 10 veces el ingreso neto oficial de Haití.

En los 1980s, organizaciones mexicanas fueron utilizadas primordialmente para transportar cocaína hacia los Estados Unidos en representación de grupos colombianos. Puesto que estos traficantes eran pagados con cocaína, a veces con más de la mitad del cargamento, hizo que fuera únicamente una cuestión de tiempo antes de que comenzaran a dominar todos los aspectos del comercio. Hoy, mientras que grupos colombianos y sus asociados dominicanos todavía controlan el Noreste, grupos mexicanos están retando a otras organizaciones en todo el país. Los grupos colombianos/dominicanos han preferido de manera tradicional usar el Caribe, mientras que grupos mexicanos prefieren usar los corredores centroamericanos. La tendencia hacia las rutas pasando por México puede ser un reflejo del dominio creciente de México.

Históricamente los grupos de tráfico mexicanos han cobrado a los traficantes colombianos un 50% de participación de cada embarque para transportar su producto a través de México, mientras que los grupos de dominicanos y puertorriqueños ofrecen el mismo servicio con tan solo un 20%.

En el 2006, tres islas de la costa de Panamá, propiedad de la organización Rayo-Montano, fueron decomisadas por autoridades del cumplimiento de la ley de los Estados Unidos, Brasil, Colombia y Panamá, decomisando alrededor de 50 toneladas de cocaína, una cantidad importante del suministro anual.¹⁰⁴

En noviembre de 2005, funcionarios de la embajada de EUA en Guatemala le dijeron a Associated Press y a Reuters que el 75% de la cocaína destinada a los Estados Unidos pasaba por Guatemala,¹⁰⁶ aunque, en aparente contradicción, el Comandante del Comando del Sur de los Estados Unidos afirmaba en marzo de 2006 que el 37% transitaba por Belice.¹⁰⁷ Guatemala es la zona principal de aterrizaje para aviones privados traficantes de cocaína de Colombia hacia los Estados Unidos (haciendo uso

de centenares de pistas encubiertas), y es también usada como un punto de tránsito para barcos de carga que llevan cocaína destinada a Europa.

Antes de su arresto por tráfico de drogas, el jefe de la agencia guatemalteca anti-drogas, Adán Castillo, advirtió que las bandas de droga en Guatemala estaban terminando sus guerras internas para cooperar en un intento de controlar el comercio de droga en toda la región. Castillo dijo que los traficantes guatemaltecos están involucrados en tratos con guerrillas colombianas para traficar drogas para uso personal en todo Centroamérica.

Este despido estuvo lejos de ser el primero en Guatemala en los últimos años; en 2005 la cabeza de la DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency), su adjunto y otros oficiales de alto nivel fueron arrestados por tráfico ilícito de drogas después de ser llamados a EEUU para una supuesta capacitación. La división a la que ellos pertenecían ya se había disuelto con anterioridad a causa de varios arrestos a miembros por el mismo tipo de desvíos. Dicha agencia se ha vuelto a reorganizar de nuevo en el año 2009.

La complejidad de la situación se ejemplifica claramente con el escándalo que tuvo lugar el 19 de febrero del 2007, cuando tres representantes salvadoreños del Parlamento Centroamericano (Parlacen) fueron asesinados en Guatemala tras el abandono de sus elementos de seguridad. Sus asesinos fueron inmediatamente identificados siendo agentes guatemaltecos de la División de Investigación Criminal.

Uno de los arrestados afirmó que habían sido contratados para secuestrar el automóvil, el cual supuestamente contenía cocaína con un valor aproximado de EUA \$5 millones. Los arrestados no fueron procesados debido a que fueron asesinados el 25 de febrero en el interior de una prisión de máxima seguridad en la que estaban recluidos.