

The Mexican Transnational Trafficking Organisations (MTTOs) their Partners and Affiliates Impact the Drug Market of Sweden

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The Illicit Drug Market of Sweden: Symptoms of Pax Mexicana!

The report “Drogsituationen Lägesbild i Sverige 2013–2016 Drogsituationen i Sverige – En rapport av Polismyndigheten och Tullverket 2016” forms the basis of this analysis of the supply side of the illicit drug market of Sweden. The focus of this analysis is the cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and cannabis markets in the search for the operations of the Mexican Transnational Trafficking Organisations (MTTOs) in these specific drug markets of Sweden. I refer the readers of this analysis to my works of the MTTOs which are necessary towards understanding the strategy and the order of battle of the MTTOs especially their structure of partners and affiliates from transnational organised crime as the Ndrangheta and from European gangland. Next the Swedish report is based on interdictions and other customs and police actions but this is not a complete picture of reality as transnational organised crime devotes strategy and resources to minimise interdictions and to neutralise policing actions which impact the sustainability of the organisation. An operational knowledge of drug markets then is only possible with observation of the power relations of drug markets and an understanding of the strategy and structure of the hegemonic players in the drug market.

<https://polisen.se/Aktuellt/Rapporter-och-publikationer/Organiserad-brottslighet/Publicerat-Organiserad-brottslighet/Drogsituationen---lagesbild-i-Sverige-2013---2016/>

The strategy of the MTTOs

The MTTOs are writing a strategy on the ground in Europe to maximise their profits from specific illicit drugs that they hold the leading edge in whereby they will attain hegemony over the market. The MTTOs are creating multi drug platforms which will be managed under the order of the hierarchy established by the MTTOs where the hierarchy consists of affiliates, partners and the MTTOs. These platforms would both wholesale and retail, traffick and manufacture with only those within the structure having access to the product of the platform. These platforms/plazas don't wholesale to their competition only to members of the organisation. The intent is to dominate the market at the retail and wholesale levels by keeping access to the product exclusive. Partners and affiliates must then be multi skilled as they are expected to move multi drug product lists,

defend, retain and expand the consumer base at the wholesale and retail ends and hand over the cash proceeds of sales to cash smugglers for transmission to laundries. This organisation also deals in non-drug products such as small arms smuggling, human smuggling, fake goods, prostitution and financial crimes. And these non-drug enterprises are exploited to enable drug trafficking and vice versa such as human smuggling from Libya coupled with drug smuggling from Libya into Europe.

The question of the impact of the MTTOs on the Swedish drug market will be answered by noting the trafficking organisations identified in the report and their relationship to the MTTOs if any. This will be done by focusing on the following illicit drugs: cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and cannabis as the MTTOs are one of two premier traffickers of cocaine to Europe the other being their partner organisation the Ndrangheta. The MTTOs have perfected the production of industrial grade methamphetamine the production of which has now taken root in Africa including West Africa under the MTTOs. Heroin is a trading opportunity being exploited by the MTTOs in response to the need to expand the product mix as is cannabis. Together these four drugs enable the MTTOs to traffick and market a multi drug product mix that maximises profit for its affiliates, its partners and themselves. The marketing strategy of the MTTOs insists on high potency product at lower market prices for all four drugs and others.

Cocaine

The report paints a picture of a cocaine market where prices are comparatively high but it gives no information on purity levels at the retail level and the supply of cocaine into Sweden is not of the requisite volume to expand the cocaine demand of Sweden. There are then two major problems the price point is not facilitating demand growth and the supply volume is inadequate to the task of lowering the price point thereby growing the demand side of the market. But there are complex trafficking pipelines in place which can facilitate the MTTOs' strategy of unleashing a tsunami of product at lower prices with higher purity/potency on a drug market it intends to grow and exert hegemony over. These pipelines are: The Balkan route where Serbian and Montenegrin organised crime move heroin, cocaine and cannabis to Scandinavia and Western Europe. The Balkan Albanian pipeline where Albanian organised crime moves heroin,

cocaine, amphetamine and cannabis to Sweden and Europe. The West African organised crime groups especially the Nigerians move cocaine and heroin to Europe including Sweden. The trafficking of cocaine via shipping containers to Sweden is noted in the report and this trafficking mode is a speciality of the MTTOs. The report states that Sweden is a transition country for smuggling to Norway. The pipelines to Sweden are all present and sophisticated as players of these trafficking pipelines are affiliates of the MTTOs especially West African organised crime. Serbian, Montenegrin and Albanian organised crime all traffic cocaine to Europe via the Balkan and especially the Albanians have now used this position of theirs to translate it power on the ground in the drug markets of Western Europe. These groups must have a supply relationship with those who dominate the supply of cocaine for trafficking to Europe namely the Ndrangheta and the MTTOs. West African organised crime has that special relationship with the MTTOs brought about by the jump to Africa from the Caribbean and Brazil by the MTTOs which has deepened with the link between them through the production of industrial methamphetamine, ice, in Africa. What is noteworthy is that all of the groups named in the report as the dominant traffickers to Sweden move the multi drug product mix favoured by the MTTOs. The trafficking pipeline network of the MTTOs is being finalised which will put in place the built in obsolescence structure to enable sustainability in spite of policing actions towards unleashing the tsunami of product on Scandinavia as the rest of Europe. The flood of drugs stashed in containers is now apparent in Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hamburg, the Black Sea ports of Romania have been switched on whilst the traditional entry points of Spain and Italy continue in the transition zone. Poland, Germany the Czech Republic and Scandinavia are the new markets to expand demand exponentially. What is apparent in all of these markets is the need to place the structure on the ground to manage, exploit and maximise profits for the MTTOs and this is the task at hand as the MTTOs demand discipline, order and silence from its cellular structure and its affiliates. The tsunami will not be launched until these preconditions are met. The impact of this tsunami will soon become palpable in the drug market of Sweden as cocaine prices fall despite its rise in purity and its expansive availability on the streets. It must be understood that there is a strategy of production to follow that changes the nature of production of the drug mix which impacts the smuggling order, the wholesaling

and retail order, the power relations of the organisation and the way it secures its business.

According to the report a gram retails for between 700-1250 kroner (70-125 Euro) and a kilo at the wholesale level sells for between 90,000-500,000 kroner (9,000-50,000 Euro) but the purity at the wholesale and retail levels are not stated which doesn't afford a glimpse of market supply realities.

The Serbs, Albanians, Romanians and West Africans are present and active in the Caribbean basin trafficking transition zone illustrated by the presence of illicit migration of these nationalities to the Dominican Republic the premier trafficking point of the Caribbean island chain. Which illustrates the transnational organised crime realities of these nationalities and most of all their operational links to the hegemonic MTTOs in the Caribbean basin transition zone.

<http://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-22079-haiti-dr-more-than-80-000-haitians-deported-in-one-year.html>

Methamphetamine

The report describes the methamphetamine (meth) market in Sweden as undeveloped even though the drug supply increased from 2008. The question remains if it's the result of inadequate supply at the necessary price point to create sustainable demand or it's a case of taste and preference of the Swedish consumer unlike that of the Norwegian consumer who has shown the preference for meth. According to the report powdered meth is trafficked into Sweden mainly from Lithuania and crystal meth from the Czech Republic with production points in operation in Poland and Germany with Vietnamese organised crime dominating the pipeline to Sweden from the Czech Republic. The expertise of the MTTOs in the production of industrial grade crystal meth (ice), the expertise of the MTTOs and their affiliates in trafficking ice and most importantly the profit margin that ice affords ensures that cocaine and ice will be the paramount products that will be used to expand the drug product range their affiliates traffick and market in Scandinavia. The ice production points in Poland and Germany fit into this strategy as Polish organised crime and the Ndrangheta in Germany will write this strategy on the drug markets of Poland and Germany. In addition, the strategy will be applied to Lithuania and the Czech Republic as is already apparent with the seizures of cocaine shipments in both countries. The

strategy then calls for the stimulation of demand through availability, price and purity with a strategically chosen drug mix which will be unleashed on Sweden. With this the next phase follows which changes the nature of the engagement with the market and the social order.

Heroin

The report describes an underdeveloped heroin market in Sweden with trafficking groups dominating the supply of heroin being involved with trafficking a multi drug mix which includes cocaine. These groups are Serbian, Montenegrin, Albanian who mainly use the Balkan route and West African organised crime. The report states that Serbian and Montenegrin organised crime groups also traffick cocaine and marijuana whilst Albanian crime groups traffick cocaine and amphetamine but Albania is now a growing supplier of cannabis which is now part of the drug product mix of Albanian organised crime. West African organised crime affiliated to the MTTOs is trafficking cocaine, heroin and meth into Europe ensuring that they are part of the MTTOs' strategy to expand the drug market of Scandinavia. Those groups involved with trafficking heroin and marijuana into Sweden and Scandinavia by extension will be absorbed as affiliates where cocaine and meth will be added to their product list. This list doesn't exclude trafficking and sale of synthetic opioids as fentanyl but this is another enterprise separate and apart from dealing with plant based products. The prices for brown Heroin in report are: 800-2,000 kroner (80-200 Euro) per gram retail and wholesale per kilo 300,000-350,000 kroner (30,000-35,000 Euro) per kilo. Without purity levels these prices simply cannot relate the drug supply reality of the drug market.

Cannabis/Marijuana

The relatively low value and bulky nature of the product move the MTTOs to seek out affiliation with successful marijuana and hashish trafficking organisations in Europe. For these successful trafficking organisations show the skill and vision to add other drug products to their product mix successfully. In this scenario the Moroccan trafficking organisations are at the apex and are now affiliates of the MTTOs as they are now players in the cocaine pipelines of Europe and have now added human smuggling to Europe to their product mix. The report states that the marijuana market is segmented in Sweden on the basis of potency as in North America as in these markets high potency organically grown marijuana fetch the

top prices. This is the market segment that the MTTOs and their affiliates target for both marijuana and hashish. In the report the Vietnamese of Sweden are named as specialising in grow ops in Sweden then there are Moroccan and Albanian organised crime. Marijuana is sourced from Afghanistan and is trafficked through various European countries to Sweden. The reality of the supply side of the drug market is the operational presence of transnational organised crime moving marijuana and hashish to Sweden who are multi drug product traffickers affiliated to the MTTOs.

The description of the Swedish drug market in the report indicates that Sweden is presently in stage 1 of the evolutionary path of the MTTOs' strategy for refashioning the drug markets of Europe. The operational presence in Sweden of transnational organised crime trafficking groups moving multi drug products specifically the Moroccans, the Serbians, the Albanians and the West Africans indicate the presence of the MTTOs in Sweden through their affiliates. Of these affiliates West African organised crime groups are exhibiting their evolution as trafficking groups under the hegemony of the MTTOs as they traffick cocaine, heroin and meth on a global basis whilst they are now manufacturers of industrial meth and continue in their other pursuits as human smuggling, faked goods document fraud, energy smuggling and financial crimes. These crime groups in Europe and by extension Sweden is the first wave of the first evolutionary phase of the MTTOs' strategy for European drug markets. Moroccan organised crime is also exhibiting signs of the fundamental changes that follow affiliation to the MTTOs. The special relationship between Romanian organised crime and the MTTOs, seen in the smuggling of cocaine through Romanian Black Sea ports where Romania is now a transition zone to Europe with this pipeline under the control of Romanian organised crime, has acted as a stimulant to the evolution of Romanian organised crime in Europe. An affiliate, Romanian organised crime, of the MTTOs courted by the MTTOs to facilitate the creation and be responsible for the daily management of this trafficking pipeline that is pointed at the heart of Germany is now exerting its organised crime muscles in Europe. Affiliation of European gangland with the MTTOs dramatically changes the scale of and the wealth generation capacity of these affiliates which impacts the power relations on the ground and by extension the social order.

According to the report the cities of Sweden that are noted drug points are Stockholm, Karlshamn, Gothenburg and Malmo. The discourse of the no-go areas of Sweden which is seeking to link migrants to the creation of lawless no-go zones is masking another possible reality which is common throughout the drug transition zone of the western hemisphere where the drug trade moves to establish its own social order in spaces of the social order where the state response to the threat posed by organised crime on the ground is inadequate to neutralise the threat posed. If this is the reality of Sweden the problem in the so called no-go areas is then one of inadequate, incompetent and politicised policing which is granting impunity to organised crime on the ground and thereby empowering organised crime to create and exert hegemony over a social order created in its image and likeness. If so the failure of the so-called no go zones has to be placed on the shoulders of Swedish politicians and for this the people and the licit social order will pay a high price. What is now necessary is field research to uncover the power relations of these no-go zones.

<https://www.rt.com/news/401512-sweden-vulnerable-no-go-zones/>