



Caribbean MOB Project

[The Space of Agnes Elisa](http://www.agneselisa.net)

Since 2014

The Puerto Rico Lords

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2024

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About the Caribbean MOB Project

This is the second article of a series on Organized Crime, Narcotrafficking, and Violence in Puerto Rico. In this article, I focus on the Puerto Rico Lords of Narcotrafficking and Organized Crime.

I invite you to read, comment, share this information, and support me on my social networks. Thanks for the support.

Dr. Agnes E. Aponte-Muñoz

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Narco trafficking in Puerto Rico

As discussed in the previous article, Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States. This grants federal agencies the legal authority to handle criminal matters on the island, including drug trafficking and cases related to the [RICO Act](#). A Federal Court of the Isle presides over these criminal cases, which typically involve interstate drug trafficking.

Various law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, DEA, ATF, IRS, et al., collaborate with state government agencies to investigate and prosecute individuals who engage in unlawful activities like drug and arms trafficking, money laundering, and violent crimes. These agencies often publish a catalog of their top-priority fugitives, known as the *"hot list."*

Puerto Rico has embraced notorious drug smugglers since the "iron fist" era of the 1990s, when I was a teenager. These figures have often caused problems for both state and federal agencies, leading to their apprehension and subsequent prosecution at the national level. It is worth noting that while some of these cases were resolved within state jurisdiction, many others resulted in more lenient prison sentences than the severity of the crimes would suggest.

Can you identify these eccentrics involved in drug trafficking and organized crime?

Check out this list, which includes a brief description from the 1990s to the present. Please feel free to add any that may have been left out in the comments.



Ángel Ayala Vázquez

AKA: Angelo Millones | El Buster

1995-2010 | Sentence: Life without Parole

A notorious drug trafficker was familiar to the José Celso Barbosa Public Housing Residence locals in Bayamon. Despite his uneven history, he orchestrated concerts with esteemed Puerto Rican reggaeton, salsa, and merengue music icons cherished by the neighborhood's most modest folks. These concerts occurred in a Miami-inspired arrangement within

the public residence, and the community rallied behind and looked after him. During the 90s and 2000s, drug trafficking surged in economically disadvantaged regions. As a result, Puerto Rico saw the emergence of a notorious drug trafficking group called *"El Combo de 70"*. This group operated from 1995 until the arrest of its leader in September 2009. On September 28, 2009, a federal indictment of Millones revealed that this criminal organization had generated profits exceeding \$70 million.

Among 65 others, Millones were charged under titles [18 and 21 of the USC](#). The first count alleged that they conspired to possess controlled substances with the intent to distribute and that this criminal activity had been ongoing since 1995. Millones modus operandi utilized Puerto Rico, specifically the Public Housing Project in Bayamón *"Barbosa"* and *"Sierra Linda"* neighborhoods, as distribution centers and pathways for transporting drugs from Venezuela and Colombia to the United States. This scheme resulted in historically high profits in Puerto Rico.

The Angelo's Machinery: [Click here.](#)



Luis X. Cruz Vázquez

AKA: El Mono

1996-2010 | Sentence: Life without Parole | Click [here](#) for his cases.

Yes. It has come to light that Cruz Vazquez, who is biologically related to Angelo Millones, played a crucial role in operating similar sales channels in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. However, his responsibilities went beyond that, as he was also in charge of hiding their illegal profits, which were acquired by investing in legitimate assets such as properties and vehicles. Together, they made a staggering \$100 million through drug and weapon trafficking. A federal indictment referred to Cruz Vazquez as the "administrator" and co-conspirator who managed the daily operations at several drug distribution points across Puerto Rico.



José Figueroa Agosto

AKA: Junior Capsula

2000-2010 | Sentence: Released in 2020.

Similar to the infamous "*El Señor de Los Cielos*" in Mexico, this individual of Bori-Dominican descent controlled 90% of cocaine trafficking in Puerto Rico from the early 2000s until the end of the decade. Federal authorities considered him extremely dangerous and placed him on their most wanted list. In the 90s, he was arrested by Puerto Rican authorities but escaped state prison using a false release order. This individual's federal indictment has charged [Angelo Millones](#)' similar conspiracy organization with yet another severe offense, this time, for distributing kilograms of cocaine. As the operation's leader, he was accused of being responsible for its organization and revenue management. In 2009, he was arrested in Puerto Rico and assisted law enforcement officials as a "*subject matter expert*" in drug trafficking and organized crime. His cooperation led to several other arrests related to organized crime, though not necessarily associated with a particular operation.

Click [here](#) to learn more about his timetable.



Alexander Capó Trujillo

AKA: Alex Trujillo

2000-2010 | Sentence: Released in 2021.

For ten years, he caused the fear of law enforcement agencies. He began at the age of 14 selling drugs in the residential areas of San Juan, and as a result, his older brother was murdered, which provoked anger in this one. He then took control of the Covadonga Public Housing in Trujillo Alto, PR, where he established his criminal organization. A fugitive from the DEA since 2003, he was linked to crimes of murder and the distribution of cocaine, heroin, and crack in the metropolitan area of Puerto Rico.

Arrested by federal authorities, he served a 15-year sentence and was released in 2021. Although his federal indictment is still sealed, news reports indicated that the charges against him were violation of the arms law, conspiracy, and drug trafficking. Today, Trujillo is a Christian pastor dedicated to bringing the word of God to communities throughout Puerto Rico.

Click [here](#) to see the interview.



Jorge Solano Moreta

AKA: Wes

1980-1995 | Sentence: 45 years | PIC not confirmed.

Jorge Solano Moreta, also known as Wes Solano, is an admitted drug seller from Puerto Rico. Wes is a native of the Dominican Republic, but he grew up in Bayamón. He entered the Puerto Rican public eye during the late 1980s and early 1990s, as many violent events took place in the Bayamón area. The newspapers commonly pointed to Solano Moreta and his gang as the perpetrators of many criminal acts and linked Solano Moreta with the Puerto Rican mafia. During that era, he became widely known as Wes by the general Puerto Rican public. Solano Moreta pled guilty to engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise on May 29, 1996. What ensued was a legal battle, however, because Solano Moreta alleged, among other things, that an agreement outside the bounds of his plea bargain had convinced him to plead guilty to the charge and that his legal counsel did not adequately challenge some tapes of him allegedly talking to other people, which were used as evidence. Solano Moreta was sentenced to 45 years in prison in December 1997.



Gamalier Cruz Cariño

AKA: Gammy The Kid

1980-1995 | Sentence: Life without Parole

There is not much information about it, as before the internet came to Puerto Rico. However, blogs and other news talk about this individual as a dangerous person who took his leave as a correctional guard to escape from a prison in Puerto Rico.



Vladimir Natera Abreu

AKA: Vladi

2015-2022 | Sentence: 15 years | Click [here](#): Why is his sentence so low?

Natera-Abreu was one of the prominent leaders in the drug trafficking organization known as "[*Las FARC*](#)" ([*Las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Canteras*](#)). Natera Abreu pleaded guilty on August 9, 2022, to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack, heroin, cocaine, marihuana, Oxycodone (*commonly known as Percocet*), and Alprazolam (*commonly known as Xanax*), all within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising the Villa Kennedy, Las Casas, El Mirador and Las Margaritas Public Housing Projects, and other areas, and within 1,000 feet of schools and playgrounds located in the Municipality of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The object of the conspiracy was the large-scale distribution of controlled substances for significant financial gain and profit.



Orlando Serrano Ramos

AKA: Landy

1990-1998 | Sentence: Life without Parole

One of the most notorious criminals of the 90s in Puerto Rico. In 1995, he was sentenced to Puerto Rico by state authorities. In 1998, he escaped from the Rio Grande Correctional Camp. However, his most notable memory was the murder of two police officers captured by a security camera, which attached the link of the events to two state police officers. He is currently serving a life sentence in federal prison.

Viewer discretion is advice. Click [here](#).



Fernando Montañez Bultrón

AKA: None

1980-1990 | Sentence: Released.

Puerto Rican drug trafficker Fernando Montañez Bultrón, linked to one of Colombia's drug cartels, starred in *The Great Escape*, "*La Gran Fuga*," which used a helicopter that landed in the courtyard of the state prison on April 7, 1991. According to his indictment, federal authorities later sentenced him for crimes related to the intent to distribute 437.8 kilograms of drugs.



Rafael Dones

AKA: Rafy Dones

1970-1984 | Sentence: Deceased.

Rafael "*Rafy*" Dones (*died in 1984*) was a Puerto Rican alleged drug dealer and independence advocate. Dones was known for allegedly being one of the first "*bichotes*," or drug lords in Puerto Rico. Dones was accused of drug dealing in 1974. Pablo Padilla, who was to be a witness in Dones' trial, was murdered on December 14 of that year, three days before he was to take the stand in practice against Dones. In 1977, Dones was accused of being the intellectual author of Padilla's murder. The Padilla murder case received substantial attention in the Puerto Rican press. Dones' lawyers asked for a mistrial based on their belief that the case's jurors were allowed to read articles about it in newspapers such as *El Vocero*. Their motion was denied. Dones was gunned down in 1984 as he was leaving a hospital, where he had gone to a rehab center to treat an addiction to methadone that he had developed.



Miguel Rivera Diaz

AKA: Bolo

1995-2011 | Sentence: Unknown

The successor of [Junior Capsula](#). He had a reputation as a triggerman. He was arrested and prosecuted between 1995 and 1998 but continued to fight for his respect with not-guilty verdicts or charges dropped. According to law enforcement records and interviews with federal

sources, he became a state fugitive in 1998 and fled the Dominican Republic in the early to mid-2000s. U.S. Marshals are believed to have nearly arrested him in 2005 at a Camuy motel where he stayed with his wife. The woman was prosecuted for offering false statements to federal agents, but the case was also postponed.

Although some versions suggest that the man fled after the arrest of his then-wife in 2005, other information indicates that he moved to the Caribbean with impunity. Conservatives from an anti-drug unit of the National Police, an agency trying to reinvent itself in the face of notorious corruption cases, point out that it may have sent some 2,500 kilos of cocaine to Puerto Rico. Though the drug trafficker, born in New York and raised in the residential and humble communities of Ponce and Guaynabo, broke with traditional drug trafficking schemes.

Click here for more information: [Correctional Officer Murder, Without the Bling Bling, Most Wanted.](#)



Teddy Leon Ayala

AKA: Leon | Pito Boom

2009-2022 | Sentence: Unknown

Leon Ayala belongs to several gangs, including one known as the "*Rompecaras*," so named because they murdered rival criminals to murder them and leave them disfigured. He led the gang "*Los Extranjeros*," which was part of the United Traffickers Organization (*La ONU*). He has allegedly been involved in several murders, including that of Puerto Rico Police Officer Blanca de los Santos-Barbosa on July 7, 2010. This crime happened on the Manuel Rivera Morales Express (*PR-81*), better known as the Trujillo Express, where Santos-Barbosa, while returning home after completing her work shift, was caught in the middle of a shootout between "*La ONU*" and "*La Rompe ONU*," a rival organization devoted to the drug trade in Puerto Rico.



Alexis Candelario Santana

AKA: Congo

1991-2013 | Sentence: Life without Parole

Alexis Candelario Santana (*born 1972*) is a Puerto Rican convicted criminal and former drug cartel leader. In March 2013, he was sentenced for the 2009 deaths of nine persons, including an unborn girl, and the attempted murders of 19 others during the 2009 Sabana Seca massacre. Candelario Santana's criminal record links him to multiple crimes committed since 1991. Starting in 1996, the organization he led allegedly trafficked marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and crack drugs.

With Braulio "*Menor*" Rodriguez, Candelario Santana formed a cartel known as the Palo de Goma drug point. The cartel controlled much of the drug sales in the area until Candelario Santana flew to Michigan to avoid arrest by the Puerto Rican police, leaving Carmelo Rondon Feliciano and Candelario Santana's cousin, Wilfredo Semprit Santana, as the cartel's figureheads.

On Saturday, October 17, 2009, at about 11:45 PM, there were some 100 people at and around La Tombola, celebrating the bar's inauguration and re-opening, including those inside the bar as well as many who were lined up in front of a vending cart to buy food just outside La Tombola, as well as a nine-year-old girl who was at an unspecified spot outside the bar and three members of a girl music group named Bomba Swing, who had come as paid entertainment to the inauguration.

Nine people died during the violent act, including an unborn baby girl, her mother, a singer and member of Bomba Swing, and Candelario Santana's godson, who Candelario Santana himself allegedly shot. Nineteen others, including the young girl outside the bar, were injured but survived.

On March 8, 2013, Candelario Santana and David Oquendo Rivas were convicted by a federal judge; in Candelario Santana's case, he was convicted of 40 counts of various crimes, all committed during the La Tombola massacre. He was eligible for the death penalty, but on March 23, a jury viewing his case did not unanimously vote for the death penalty for Candelario Santana. Therefore, he

was sentenced to life in prison. On August 23, 2017, the federal court ordered a new trial seeking the death penalty for both defendants, starting with jury selection on August 1, 2018. On July 21, 2023, Candelario Santana was found guilty following a retrial.

Click here to learn more about it: [Appeals](#), [Retrial](#).



Wilfredo Candelario Santana

AKA: Coper

1993-2009 | Sentence: Unknown

Alexis' brother was tried in the same indictment as the latter; He was tried for possession with intent to distribute 280 grams of crack cocaine and other drugs and violation of the Racketeering Act offenses in addition to a series of murders as part of the drug trafficking business and offenses under the RICO Act.



Joseph E. Perez Gonzalez

AKA: Peka | Striper

2015-2021 | Sentence: Unknown | Click [here](#).

The leader of the drug trafficking organization [65 INC](#). distributed cocaine base (*commonly known as "crack"*), *heroin, cocaine, marijuana, Oxycodone (Percocet), and Alprazolam (Xanax)* in various public housing projects and residential areas of San Juan and Carolina.



José Garcia Cosme

AKA: Papo Cachete

1970-1980 | Sentence: Deceased | DOJ: Click [here](#)

Papo Cachete was a Puerto Rican convicted drug dealer. He was one of the leaders of the illegal drug trade in Caguas, Puerto Rico, from the late 1970s to the late 1980s. García Cosme was the

leader of a drug trafficking organization in Caguas and is considered the precursor of the era of the 90s in drug dealing in the area, leading to the rise of other well-known Puerto Rican alleged drug dealers from Caguas.

Authorities believe that García Cosme was the mastermind behind an escape that occurred on April 17, 1991, at the Oso Blanco prison in San Juan, where a helicopter landed inside the prison, allowing some prisoners to escape. García Cosme had a lengthy criminal history dating back to the 1980s. He was arrested in 2013, convicted of drug dealing, and sent to a federal prison in the United States. Garcia Cosme said the Puerto Rican government bore some responsibility for the drug problems Puerto Rico has faced. Garcia Cosme was released in 2019 and was beginning to live out a sentence of eight years in supervised liberty when he was assassinated on September 2, 2019, as he was driving towards an exit to Caguas in the nearby city of Gurabo. The assailant or assailants fired multiple shots at the compact car that García Cosme was driving. Four hours after his death, his accountant, 35-year-old Javier Vazquez García (*no relation*), was also murdered by multiple shots at Vazquez García's home.

Puerto Rican Criminal Organizations or Boricua Organized Crime?

For better or worse, in addition to the climatical beauty of beaches and mountains, our association as an unincorporated country of the United States, but if they have jurisdiction over our government since the late 1980s, it has positioned itself at the federal level as a strategic point of high demand for the illegal trafficking of drugs and weapons to the United States and Europe; due to its geographical position and relationship with the USA.

Since the year 2000, criminal organizations on the island have been evolving, bringing with them the globalization of the market and the use of the internet as a tool to expand businesses and make agreements for the diversification of the company, for example, as the drug-producing countries in South America, use Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands for transportation and distribution.

Organización de Narcotraficantes Unidos (ONU / La ONU)

A Puerto Rican criminal organization based in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. It is an organization dedicated to drug dealing and unifying various well-known dealers under one umbrella group. Established in 1995, by 2009, when 37 members of the organization were arrested, it had become the most powerful drug trafficking organization in Puerto Rico. US\$100 million was forfeited during the seizure by the Bayamon Task Force and other authorities. It began to unify criminal elements but often ended in turf wars and revenge killings.

The criminal organization was initially formed by [José "Coquito" López Rosario](#), also known as "Coco Blin Blin" (a reference to his *Blin Blin* music). From there, [Angel Ayala Vazquez \(known as "Angelo Millones," "El Negro" and "El Buster"\)](#) and "Pito Paz" joined. Their idea was for all drug traffickers to stop their turf wars and work together, with a set of rules and regulations, to form a powerful empire that the Puerto Rico Police could not overthrow.

La [ONU](#) was divided into local gangs such as Bin Laden Records, los Extranjeros, and los Anormales. According to police records, at some time, Ayala Vazquez decided to let a man named Jose Colon run the drug trade at the Virgilio Davila public housing near Bayamón downtown, and Colon's brother, Christopher Colon, the drug trade at the Rafael Torrech public housing. By 2004, La ONU had many members controlling the drug trafficking trade in Puerto Rico. ONU helped transport shipments to the United States from Colombia, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and other Latin American countries.

In 2009, the FBI arrested Ayala Vazquez, and 65 members of his organization were indicted. Jose Colon was arrested in 2010. By then, the gang was distributing heroin, cocaine, marijuana, crack, Xanax, and Percocet. Even after original organization members were murdered or arrested, the murders continued. On July 29, 2013, four years after "Chino Valencia" was murdered, his son was murdered at a gas station one morning in Bayamón. In 2018, eight years after Ayala Vazquez ("Angelo Millones") was arrested, his twin sons were arrested on drug and weapons charges. The FBI dismantled the organization on March 28, 2012.

Rompe Onu

La [Rompe ONU](#) ("*ONU Breakers*") is a rival organization devoted to the drug trade in Puerto Rico. Several former ONU members first organized Rompe ONU and have been involved in a violent war against ONU members. In 2015, 105 persons linked to Rompe ONU were arrested by the ATF and the Puerto Rico Police.

65 INC

The [65 INC](#) organization used violence and intimidation to maintain control of public housing projects and control drug trafficking in those areas." Their leader was [Joseph Perez, AKA Peka](#). From 2015 to 2023, this gang distributed cocaine, heroin, marijuana, Percocet, and Xanax in the residential areas of Jardines del Paraíso, Jardines de Monte Hatillo, Las Dalias, Monte Park, Jardines de Campo Rico, San Martín, Jardines de Country Club, Ernesto Ramos Antonini, La Esmeralda and Nuestra Señora de Covadonga, in addition to the Los Claveles condominium and the Buen Consejo neighborhood.

Los Lobos (The Wolfs)

The gang members called themselves '*Los Lobos*' and used their hands to identify each other. Some had tattoos with designs alluding to wolves, such as the wolf's footprint, to identify themselves as gang members. The gang members set up drug points that they moved in different parts of the residential area to avoid detection by the police. Also, they made narcotics '*deliveries*' in the Cabo Rojo area if requested.

1500

The gang was a set of different criminal "*associations*" to differentiate themselves; some had tattooed the number [1,500](#) and other symbols on their bodies. In addition, a select group of gunmen and leaders within those associations were allowed to write "*Stars Inc.*" on their bodies. To differentiate and exalt them from the rest.

FARC: Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Cantera

They have been operating since 2006 in different parts of the metropolitan area of Santurce, such as four residential areas, Villa Kennedy, Las Casas, El Mirador, and Las Margaritas, as well as from sectors such as El Guano, Playita, Cantera, and William and Eleven Street. The group trafficked large

quantities of drugs such as crack, heroin, cocaine, marijuana, Oxycodone (*or Percocet*), and Alprazolam (*known as Xanax*). They trafficked drugs to Puerto Rico and shipped them to destinations on the East Coast of the United States by mail or through "*mules*" through Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, and some of their members operated from the Dominican Republic. [Natera-Abreu](#) was one of the prominent leaders in the drug trafficking organization known as "*Las FARC*."

The FARC had a criminal operation with transactions of nearly \$76 million, illegal money that was used in legal investments such as private parties, hotel stays, trips, cars, nightclubs, and real estate such as residences in urbanizations in Guaynabo and commercial buildings in San Juan. The group faces money laundering charges. Among the organization's practices were giving away samples to customers to promote certain types of drugs and using swimming pools and water tanks for barricades.

Los Menores (The Minors)

Conspired to possess with intent to distribute cocaine base, also known as "*crack*," heroin, cocaine, and marihuana within 1,000 feet of a real property comprising housing facilities owned by a public housing authority in the municipalities of Bayamón, Toa Baja, Cataño, Naranjito, Comerío, and Corozal. The public housing facilities are Virgilio Dávila, Rafael Falín Torrench, Brisas de Bayamón, Jardines de Caparra, Las Gardenias, La Alhambra, José Celso Barbosa, Los Jeannie, Alegría Norte, Jardines de Cataño, Sierra Linda, Los Laureles, and Los Dominicos; and Villa Olga, Río Plantation and El Polvorín Wards.

This drug trafficking organization gained control of most of the housing projects and wards within Bayamón and the areas nearby after federal authorities incarcerated most of the leaders from nearly all the drug gangs in the area. This new gang was identified as Los Menores or the "*new blood*." The goal of Los Menores was to take over and maintain control of all the drug trafficking activities in Bayamón and other areas by force, violence, and intimidation.

As part of the manner and means of the conspiracy, the defendants and co-conspirators were instructed to shoot and kill suspected rival drug trafficking members. All firearms used during the commission of these violent acts would be returned to the organization's leader for their disposal. Co-conspirators would also pay bribes to law enforcement officers in exchange for information on informants or cooperators and law enforcement initiatives to disrupt the drug points.

Is Puerto Rico a Narcoestado?

YES. In my opinion. Since 2011, this concept has been heard on the island due to the disproportionate increase in murders in Puerto Rico because of the war between gangs for control of the drug and arms market. In an open Google search, it provided multiple news clippings related to the government continuing to deny that we are a narco-state. A narco-state, also known as narco-capitalism or narco-economics, is commonly employed to characterize nations where the influence and riches of illicit drug trafficking have penetrated all lawful establishments. It additionally denotes a country where the unlawful trafficking of narcotic drugs constitutes a sizable fraction of the economy. In 2011, the Center for Investigative Journalism, the CPI, wrote an article on this subject. By that date, violent deaths were approaching 1,100 deaths. By that time, police corruption was at an all-time high, and [Police Reform](#) was being implemented to address issues of corruption and civil rights. Insight magazine defines the concept of narco-state enforcement when drug traffickers have infiltrated state police forces to such depth that they are dictating public policy and openly backing politicians. This may be one of several definitions of the concept of narco-state, but we cannot box it into this definition alone. According to public security policy in many countries, there are various definitions and interpretations of how to label a country as a narco-state.

For as long as I can remember, the only public policy of the government of Puerto Rico has been the famous ["Iron Fist Against Crime."](#) It has been a failed U.S. policy since the 1980s. However, in Puerto Rico, we continue with the implementation of the policy despite the failure and the government's refusal to seek other alternatives to address the problem of drug trafficking and organized crime in Puerto Rico. The government understands that continuing to put people in jail or federal law enforcement agencies putting criminals in American prisons for life will not solve the problem.

On October 31, 2023, the Puerto Rico Police, in conjunction with federal law enforcement agencies, served more than [300 arrest warrants](#) related to cases of drug trafficking, drugs, weapons, and criminal organizations. The question to be asked is how many of these cases will survive the state judicial processes and whether the prisons are prepared for the entry of these people to serve prison sentences in case the entire judicial process to which they are entitled is seen. Here, we only see that we continue to fill human warehouses without any tool for rehabilitation or reintegration into society.

The narco-state crosses all social layers in a transversal or vertical way, affecting the survival of our people. Who profits from the quick money made by the criminal organization? The polarization between rich and poor is increasingly deepened by the high cost of living spirals upwards, displacing those who barely survive dependent on social welfare. The social sciences provide a framework for analyzing intervention options at three levels: primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention once violent acts unfold. At the primary level, profound changes are required in the social organization regarding the distribution of wealth, access to education, and paid work. Changing the fundamentals of socio-economic stratification closes the door to dependence on the narco-state as a mode of survival.

On the other hand, intervention programs must be established to manage the aftermath of the existence of violence to prevent the State from reproducing it. At the remedial level, assessing the severity of acts of violence is imperative. This is the basis for classifying offenses in the Penal Code for a criminal prosecution, with their corresponding proportional sentences, as a security measure for the community. Any strategic plan must use operational tactics to address prevention and state measures to restore security instead of reproducing violence.

Narco-Music?

When I began my hunt for narco music, I was directed towards reggaeton and narco corridos playlists on platforms like Spotify and Apple Music. It was interesting to see such playlists focused on this particular topic. Neuroscience has identified the significance of musical languages in brain development. For instance, the emotions of peace and tranquility are linked to soothing music. At the same time, the nervous system and endorphins are known to generate sensations of anger, rebellion, and frustration, among others. There are three types of melodies related to narco music: hip-hop, reggaeton, and narco corridos.

Rap music developed in the United States at the end of the 1990s. It combines hip-hop and electronic music elements, setting itself apart from other genres with its unique rhythm and electronic arrangements. The lyrics of rap songs often center around stories of individuals living in poverty-stricken areas and frequently touch upon topics such as sex, drugs, violence, money, and societal marginalization. Unfortunately, many rap lyrics also promote negative attitudes towards women and encourage criminal behavior.

The messages in reggaeton and narco corridos are negative, promoting promiscuity, excesses, and drug use. Reggaeton is a dance music genre originating in Puerto Rico, Panama, and Jamaica in the 1970s. It is a Latin expression derived from reggae and dance hall music. The genre has since expanded to the United States. Recurring themes in reggaeton include oppression, crime, discrimination, and political violence. In Puerto Rico, reggaeton has become a means by which narcoculture is promoted and disseminated, similar to what happens in Mexico with narcocorridos and in the United States with hip hop.

The narcocorrido subgenre belongs to the regional Mexican corrido genre and is renowned for its captivating story-driven ballads that have spawned various other genres. This music style is widely enjoyed on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border and boasts a lively beat that draws inspiration from polka, waltz, and mazurka.

Shall we delve into the topic of narco music and arrive at a consensus on our stance towards it? While we strive to maintain an open-minded approach towards all forms of music, we, as mature individuals, need to enlighten the younger generation about the lyrics in such compositions. This would enable them to comprehend the underlying messages and form their perspectives about the music. Above all, we must acknowledge music's potential influence over our collective psyche.

Music has been used in the field of drug trafficking and organized crime to launder money from the proceeds of drug and firearm sales. New artists who require financial support to establish their brand are often targeted for such purposes. Additionally, these artists aim to shed light on the lives and challenges faced by Puerto Rico's marginalized communities.

Let's remember the history in Puerto Rico of reggaeton artists when they started in the 90s and 2000s. For example, Tempo served a federal sentence for drug trafficking. In addition, after the murder of Jose Coquito Lopez Rosario, it was known that he was the owner of the company Blin Blin Music, for which he recorded several artists such as Tego Calderon, Don Oman, Wisin y Yandel, Hector, and Tito, among others. If you want to know more about this story, In that case, I recommend the article by Omar Ruiz Velez entitled [*Representado el Caserio: Narcocultura y el diario vivir en los videos musicales del reggaetón.*](#)

- [*Rap+Reggaeton y Narcos*](#)
- [*Mala Influencia*](#)

- [*Correlation between Rap and Violence*](#)

What is next?

Undertaking research for this publication proved challenging due to the lack of available information and studies about the subject matter. Consequently, Puerto Rico faces a shortage of comprehensive investigations to combat drug trafficking, excessive violence, and organized crime. The government continues to rely on outdated policies, such as the Iron Fist approach, which has been in place for over four decades, without acknowledging its inadequacies and pursuing more viable alternatives to mitigate the impact of the persistent violence and insecurity that permeates society.

The federal justice system has imprisoned many people with life sentences. However, violence today is more excessive and brutal than it was 20 years ago. The drug trafficking technique has become more sophisticated, and organized crime has established a stronghold, making Puerto Rico a vital transshipment point for products that are transported to the United States and Europe.

The island has unfortunately fallen into the grips of organized crime and drug trafficking, utilizing music and banking as methods for money laundering. The government has granted permits to international banks, transforming the island into a tax haven for these nefarious activities. It's time to reassess the government's approach and consider more effective solutions to combat these issues.

Rather than relying on an iron fist, we must prioritize policies that promote honest and fair work for society, reducing the appeal of illegal activities as a means of survival. In the next edition, we will be addressing more in-depth topics such as the integration of women in drug trafficking and organized crime, how the illegal market is perceived through the economic and social aspects, and the diversification of Latin America from organized crime. I hope this reading has been to your liking. As always, I am grateful for the comments and for sharing them with others.

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