

The SHERLOC Team is pleased to share with you Issue No. 12 of our newsletter regarding our recent efforts to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and the international legal framework against terrorism.



Image credit: Associated Press

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SPECIAL ISSUE: DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ORGANIZED CRIME

Of all illicit products trafficked by organized criminal groups, drug trafficking is the most infamous. In recent decades, the world’s illicit drug trade has received increasing scrutiny and attention. This special edition of the SHERLOC Newsletter takes a particular focus on drug trafficking and its linkages to organized crime. It includes as a featured case the recent case of *USA v Guzmán* — the prosecution of the notorious ‘El Chapo’ — and also provides an introduction to UNODC’s Drug Control Repository. Also included in this edition is information on the SHERLOC Team’s recent and upcoming activities as well as our regular ‘Meet a Contributor’ feature.

FEATURED CASE: USA V GUZMAN ('EL CHAPO')



*Courtroom sketch of Guzmán's trial in New York in February 2019
Image credit: Jane Rosenberg/Associated Press*

He's the most infamous drug lord since Pablo Escobar. The 2014 arrest of Joaquín Archivaldo Guzmán Loera — also known as 'El Chapo' — made news around the world, and his notoriety only grew when in July 2015 he escaped from a maximum-security prison in Mexico. In April 2017, a television series about El Chapo's life premiered on *Netflix* worldwide. But behind the news headlines and television shows, the investigation, extradition and prosecution was a real criminal case, and it is this criminal case that is the basis of one of the most recent cases notes uploaded to SHERLOC.

Guzmán was, since 1994, the leader of the Sinaloa Cartel, one of the most powerful drug-trafficking organizations in Mexico. Guzmán's cartel trafficked illicit drugs including cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, and marijuana throughout the world. Guzmán's cartel used fishing boats, submarines, carbon-fibre aeroplanes, trains with secret compartments and underground tunnels to traffic these drugs into the United States, where they were sold to wholesale distributors. Guzmán then used various methods to launder billions of dollars of drug proceeds, including US-based insurance companies, reloadable debit cards and numerous shell companies, such as a

juice company and a fish flour business. Guzmán's cartel also smuggled cash in bulk from the United States back to Mexico.

After his escape from prison, Guzmán was reapprehended on 8 January 2016. One year later, on 19 January 2017, he was extradited to the US to face charges of participation in a continuing criminal enterprise, possession, manufacture or distribution of controlled substances, importation of controlled substances, use of a firearm during and in relation to the commission of a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime, and laundering of monetary instruments.

On 12 February 2019, a jury in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York found Guzmán guilty of all ten counts with which he was charged, and on 17 July 2019 he was sentenced to life imprisonment plus 30 years.

The 'El Chapo' case stands out both by the extent of Guzmán's enterprise and by the difficulty in bringing him to justice. Guzmán made the Sinaloa Cartel one of the biggest cartels in the world. The success of his enterprise relied on the diversification of the drugs it sold, its suppliers, its means to transport



A member of the Mexican Federal Police crouches in front of a modified motorcycle on rails, discovered in the escape tunnel leading from Guzmán's cell

Image credit: Marco Ugarte/Associated Press

and smuggle the drugs and the expansion of his enterprise's control over other countries. The evidence given at Guzmán's trial included testimony from 14 cooperating witnesses; narcotics seizures of over 130,000 kilograms of cocaine and heroin; weapons, including AK-47s and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher; ledgers; text messages; videos; photographs and intercepted recordings detailing Guzmán's drug trafficking activity over a 25 year period from 1989 to 2014. The extent of Guzmán's enterprise was also reflected in the size of the forfeiture order made against him upon his criminal conviction — forfeiture in the amount

of nearly US \$12.7 billion.

The first manhunt for Guzmán's capture started in 1993 but he was only convicted in 2019. Guzmán escaped from prison twice, once in 2001 and once in 2015, through an underground tunnel which had been built from a construction site 1.5 kilometres away and led to Guzmán's cell.

This feature has been adapted from the original SHERLOC case entry. To find out more about this case, click [here](#) to access it on SHERLOC.

INTRODUCING THE DRUG CONTROL REPOSITORY



What is the Drug Control Repository?

The Drug Control Repository, launched by UNODC in 2018, is an information management portal aimed at facilitating the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the three International Drug Control Conventions — namely, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

The repository provides a unique gateway to access information relating to drug control. In addition to a database of national laws and regulations on drug control, the Drug Control Repository also includes directories of Competent National Authorities designated under the three Drug Control Conventions, information on the status of adherence to each



The Drug Control Repository homepage

of these conventions, and other resources relating to drug control such as commentaries on the Conventions and links to other relevant databases, publications and resources.

How does the Drug Control Repository relate to SHERLOC?

The Drug Control Repository is powered by SHERLOC, meaning that it uses the same user interface as SHERLOC. SHERLOC users visiting the Drug Control Repository will find themselves immediately familiar with navigating the Drug Control Repository.

Whereas SHERLOC’s Database of Legislation contains national penal provisions establishing drug-related offences under the International Drug Control Conventions, the

Drug Control Repository’s Database of Legislation contains legislative provisions on broader issues relating to drug control, such as licit activities involving controlled substances and prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

Further information

The Drug Control Repository can be accessed at drugcontrolrepository.unodc.org

If you have any legislation to submit to the Drug Control Repository, or you would like to know more about the repository, you can send your enquiries to unodc-legal@un.org

RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Presentation to Saudi delegation, September 2019

On Monday 16 September 2019, UNODC welcomed a delegation from Saudi Arabia to Vienna to discuss UNODC’s work in combating corruption and organized crime. The delegation from Saudi Arabia included members of the Anti-Corruption Commission (Nazaha), the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Prosecutor General.

Riikka Puttonen of UNODC gave a presentation to the delegation on the Organized Crime Convention and SHERLOC,



Visiting delegates from Saudi Arabia

and used the SHERLOC case of [USA v Ramos](#) as a case study for exploring the Organized Crime Convention and the tools it provides to member States.

SHERLOC Resource Centre at upcoming intergovernmental meetings

In order to spread awareness about SHERLOC, the SHERLOC Team is regularly in attendance at intergovernmental meetings hosted in Vienna.

In October 2019, the SHERLOC Resource Centre will be present at two meetings. Between



Riikka Puttonen presenting on SHERLOC

7 and 9 October 2019, the Vienna International Centre will play host to the High-Level Conference "Educating for the Rule of Law". The Conference will bring together over 200 stakeholders from both education and justice fields and will allow policymakers from different areas (such as Ministries of Education and Ministries of Justice), educators and academics to build bridges and propose innovative ways to empower the next generation of change-makers.

From 9 to 11 October 2019, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime will be convened in Vienna. The Open-

ended Intergovernmental Expert Group was established in October 2018 by resolution 9/1 of the Conference of Parties for the purpose of finalizing and harmonizing the self-assessment questionnaires, preparing the guidelines for conducting the country reviews, and preparing a blueprint for the lists of observations.

The SHERLOC Resource Centre will be present outside both of these meetings, distributing relevant publications on organized crime and information about SHERLOC, the CNA Directory and the Drug Control Repository. Members of the SHERLOC Team will also be present to give live demonstrations of SHERLOC and to answer your questions.

Drop by and say hi!

MEET A CONTRIBUTOR



This issue's featured contributor is Colin Craig. Colin rejoined UNODC's Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch as a Consultant in August 2019 and has taken the reins as the SHERLOC Focal Point. Colin first worked on SHERLOC as an individual contributor in 2015, and subsequently interned with the SHERLOC team in 2016.

Colin Craig has degrees in Law, Economics and Philosophy from the University of Queensland and a Masters in Public International Law from Leiden University. He has worked with UNODC on numerous projects over the last six years including legislative guides on trafficking in persons, wildlife crime and falsified medical products-related crime, and research publications concerning the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. Outside of his work with UNODC, he is a published author in the fields of migrant smuggling and refugee law.