

La Nueva Familia Michoacana (LNFM)

OVERVIEW

AS OF FEBRUARY 2026

La Nueva Familia Michoacana (LNFM), the latest iteration of the La Familia Michoacana drug trafficking organization, is a foreign terrorist organization and one of the most powerful drug cartels operating in southern Mexico. The group smuggles cocaine, fentanyl—including “rainbow fentanyl,” marketed to children—heroin, and methamphetamine into the United States. LNFM is led by brothers Johnny Hurtado Olascoaga, a.k.a. El Pez, and Jose Alfredo Hurtado Olascoaga, a.k.a. La Fresa. The brothers run a clothing line known as “Doble H,” which features images of a fish and a strawberry, representing the brothers’ respective aliases, to help brand the organization.

Operating Area

Primarily in Michoacan and Guerrero, Mexico; also maintains a presence in Mexico City, Morelos, Puebla, and the State of Mexico

Members

Approximately 5,000

Tactics And Targets

LNFM uses commercial trucks and cooperates with other Mexican cartels to smuggle drugs into the United States. The group also engages in migrant smuggling and trafficking, money laundering, kidnapping, arms trafficking, and illegal mining and extortion. LNFM’s extortion of avocado and lime farmers in Michoacan is a major source of illicit revenue for the cartel. The group attacks Mexican Government officials and members of rival cartels and sometimes uses drones and explosives in its attacks.

Terrorist Group Designation

The US State Department designated LNFM as a foreign terrorist organization and Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity in February 2025.

KEY LEADERS



Johnny Hurtado Olascoaga

a.k.a. El Pez

LNFM coleader; was sanctioned by the US Treasury Department in 2022

[The US State Department offers up to a \\$5 million reward for information leading to his arrest](#)



La Nueva Familia Michoacana (LNFM) *(continued)*

KEY LEADERS *(continued)*



Jose Alfredo Hurtado Olascoaga

a.k.a. El Fresa

LNFM coleader; was sanctioned by the US Treasury Department in 2022

[*The US State Department offers up to a \\$3 million reward for information leading to his arrest*](#)



Josue Ramirez Carrera

a.k.a. El Tuerto

LNFM financial leader and third-in-command; was sanctioned by the US Treasury Department in 2024

NOTABLE ATTACKS

May 2025

Michoacan, Mexico

Clashes between LNFM and the New Generation Jalisco Cartel result in the burning of six civilian vehicles.

March 2021

State of Mexico, Mexico

LNFM ambushes and kills 13 police officers in Coatepec Harinas.

