

Los Lobos

OVERVIEW

AS OF FEBRUARY 2026

Los Lobos is a criminal organization based in Ecuador. It has thousands of members and is involved in drug trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, and illegal gold mining. Los Lobos's activities are concentrated on the Pacific coast of Ecuador, in the country's gold mining areas, and in the capital city, Quito. It has partnerships with Mexico-based US-designated foreign terrorist organization New Generation Jalisco Cartel and with European drug traffickers. It also maintains ties to Colombia-based Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) dissidents who remain involved in illicit activities after the FARC signed a peace agreement with the Colombian Government in 2016.

Operating Area

Ecuador

Members

Approximately 8,000

Tactics And Targets

Los Lobos is involved in various organized crimes, including drug trafficking and illegal mining. It has engaged in violence, including contract killings and prison riots. Los Lobos claimed responsibility for the murder of Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio and has been involved in clashes with rival gangs such as Los Choneros.

Terrorist Group Designation

On 5 September 2025, the US State Department designated Los Lobos a foreign terrorist organization and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity. In 2024, the US Department of the Treasury sanctioned Los Lobos for drug trafficking.

KEY LEADERS

**Alexander Ariel Quesada San Martin** [DETAINED]*a.k.a. Ariel*

Presumed leader of Los Lobos; was imprisoned at Turi Penitentiary near Cuenca, Ecuador, as of 2022



Los Lobos *(continued)*

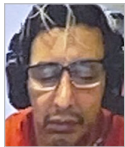
KEY LEADERS *(continued)*



Wilmer Chavarria Barre [DETAINED]

a.k.a. Pipo

Leader; was captured by Ecuadorian and Spanish authorities in Malaga, Spain, in 2025



Fabricio Colon Pico Suarez [DETAINED]

a.k.a. El Salvaje, Capitan Pico

Former leader of Los Lobos in Pichincha, Ecuador; was involved in an attempted murder against then–Attorney General Diana Salazar; was captured by Ecuadorian authorities in 2024

NOTABLE ATTACKS

August 2023

Quito, Ecuador

Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio is murdered. Los Lobos claims responsibility.

November 2021

Guayaquil, Ecuador

A dispute between Los Lobos and rival gangs at Ecuador’s Litoral Penitentiary results in a prison riot and the deaths of 68 inmates.

