

Northeast Cartel (CDN)

C.D.N

OVERVIEW

AS OF MAY 2026

The Northeast Cartel (CDN) is a violent cartel designated as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) and is responsible for trafficking illicit narcotics and migrants into the United States. CDN was formed in 2014 by now-detained Miguel Angel Trevino Morales and Omar Trevino Morales as a splinter group of Los Zetas Cartel.

Operating Area

Primarily in northeast Mexico, including Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosi, Tamaulipas, and Zacatecas; also operates clandestinely in the United States

Members

Probably more than 1,000

Tactics And Targets

CDN smuggles narcotics, migrants, and fuel into the United States by using hidden compartments in tractor trailers and passenger vehicles as well as lookouts on both sides of the US-Mexico border. CDN protects its criminal moneymaking operations through threats and violence, including kidnappings, torture, and murder. Its lethal operations often target rival cartels and Mexican security services. CDN members use a variety of small arms and armored vehicles to protect the group's smuggling routes and territory.

Terrorist Group Designation

The US State Department designated CDN as an FTO and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity in February 2025.

KEY LEADERS

**Juan Cisneros Trevino***a.k.a. Juanito*

CDN leader; assumed control after the arrest of his cousin and then-leader, Juan Gerardo Trevino Chavez, a.k.a. El Huevo, in 2022

**Abdon Federico Rodriguez Garcia***a.k.a. Cucho*

Second-in-command; was sanctioned by the US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control in August 2025



Northeast Cartel (CDN) *(continued)*

KEY LEADERS *(continued)*



Miguel Angel Trevino Morales [DETAINED]

a.k.a. Z-40

Cofounder and former leader of CDN; was extradited to the United States in February 2025 and is awaiting trial



Omar Trevino Morale [DETAINED]

a.k.a. Z-42

Cofounder and former leader of CDN; brother of Z-40; was extradited to the United States in February 2025 and is awaiting trial



Juan Gerardo Trevino Chavez [DETAINED]

a.k.a. El Huevo

Leader of CDN from 2016 to 2022; nephew of Z-40 and cousin of Juanito; was arrested and extradited to the United States in 2022; pleaded guilty to drug and money laundering charges in 2024

NOTABLE ATTACKS

August 2024

Tamaulipas, Mexico

CDN attacks a Mexican military patrol, which results in the deaths of two soldiers and the wounding of five.

June 2022

Nuevo Leon, Mexico

CDN ambushes Mexican police officers on patrol, which results in the deaths of six and the wounding of four.

March 2022

Tamaulipas, Mexico

CDN attacks the US Consulate in Nuevo Laredo with small arms and grenades after Mexican authorities arrested then-CDN leader El Huevo and extradited him to the United States. The attack causes no casualties.

