



Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) Distributes Essentials amid COVID-19 Pandemic

OE Watch Commentary: Members of Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) have been seen delivering boxes of essential items across communities. According to accompanying Mexican news source *La Verdad Noticias*, photos of CJNG boxes have been circulating across social media, with decals on the boxes that read “From your friends CJNG, COVID-19 emergency support.” The article specifically references deliveries to various ranches in San Luis Potosí, but also deliveries since 12 April 2020 in Salinas de Hidalgo, Villa de Arriga, Villa de Reyes, Santa María del Río, Tierra Nueva, Rioverde, Villa de Zaragoza, and Soledad de Graciano Sánchez.

According to another Mexico news outlet, *Vanguardia*, CJNG trucks were seen in Cuautitlán, a southern city in Jalisco, delivering goods to residents. The report indicates that some boxes had decals reading “Given in the name of ‘El Señor de los Gallos,’ better known as ‘El Mencho.’” Both reports note that there has been an uptick in cartels delivering goods to communities since the outbreak of the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic is resulting in the Mexican cartels responding to the situation in a number of ways. Some cartels appear to be trying to seize an opportunity to fill a governance void by providing handouts and aid to local residents, as seen in this instance. Others are also engaging in quarantine enforcement (the Sinaloa Cartel) and the levying of a special pandemic tax to supposedly help pay for community aid (the Los Viagras cartel). **End OE Watch Commentary (Bunker/Keshavarz)**

“CJNG is using the pandemic as an opportunity to ingratiate themselves with the population across different municipalities.”

Source: “CJNG reparte despensa por coronavirus ahora en San Luis Potosí (CJNG distributes pantry items for coronavirus, now in San Luis Potosí),” *La Verdad Noticias*, 14 April 2020. <https://laverdadnoticias.com/crimen/CJNG-reparte-despensa-por-coronavirus-ahora-en-San-Luis-Potosi-20200414-0033.html>

Hitmen of the CJNG were seen delivering boxes with pantry to the town of San Luis Potosi.

... On this occasion, various photos of pantry boxes signed by the CJNG began to circulate on social networks, which are packed with the assassins’ trucks. These boxes had a decal that could be read: “From your friends CJNG, COVID-19 emergency support.”

Source: “Cártel de Jalisco regala despensas por coronavirus, de parte de ‘El Mencho’ (Jalisco cartel distributes pantry items for coronavirus, from ‘El Mencho’),” *Vanguardia*, 14 April 2020. <https://vanguardia.com.mx/articulo/cartel-de-jalisco-regala-despensas-por-coronavirus-de-parte-de-el-mencho>

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