



Mexican Cartels Turn to the Dark Web for Drug Operations



INTERPOL Report on Crime Groups.

Source: Interpol official Twitter, https://twitter.com/INTERPOL_Cyber/status/1290543329986277377?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1290543329986277377%7Ctwgr%5Eshare_3&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.milenio.com%2Fpolicia%2Fcarteles-mexicanos-dark-web-apps-distribuir-drogas

conventional currencies, such as the US dollar or Mexican peso. Through individual exchangers and exchange houses, users can get cash or crypto assets in their virtual wallets. Crypto assets can then be exchanged to bills, or changed from bitcoin to real currencies. Using the Dark Web and various applications allows people and activities to remain anonymous. Transactions in cryptocurrencies are beneficial to organized crime by making it extremely difficult for national and international policing organizations to trace their revenue streams and also allows for the easy transfer of illicit funds for global money laundering purposes. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bunker & Keshavarz)**

“Cartels have turned to the Dark Web and popular applications for the sale and distribution of drugs.”

Source: “Cárteles migran a la web para distribuir Drogas y ‘blinder’ operaciones de autoridades (Cartels shift to the web to sell drugs and ‘shield’ operations from authorities),” *Milenio*, 27 September 2020. <https://www.milenio.com/policia/carteles-mexicanos-dark-web-apps-distribuir-drogas>

Cartels have adapted to the new reality by shifting to new technologies to distribute large and small shipments of drugs.

Source: “Cárteles Mexicanos utilizan la ‘Dark Web’ y Tinder para vender Drogas (Mexican cartels using the ‘Dark Web’ and Tinder to sell drugs),” *TeleDiario*, 27 September 2020. <https://www.telediario.mx/nacional/carteles-mexicanos-utilizan-la-dark-web-y-tinder-para-vender-drogas>

Due to COVID-19, Mexican cartels have been forced to conduct business by other means. Sinaloa and CJNG have established IT offices within their structures, through applications, fake pages and other sites on the Dark Web.