



# Convoy of Armed CJNG Survey Neighborhoods in Zacatecas

**OE Watch Commentary:** According to the accompanying excerpted article by *NarcoViolencia*, the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) has increasingly been expanding throughout Mexican territories. In a video published in the accompanying article, CJNG gunmen can be seen armed with .50 caliber machine guns and assault rifles as they drive through Zacatecas neighborhoods in what appear to be newer-model vehicles. The report notes that the CJNG similarly drive through streets in the municipalities of Apulco, Nochistlán, and Tlachichila in Zacatecas.

According to the accompanying excerpted article by *La Net Noticias*, civilians who witnessed the cartel’s vehicles were shocked by CJNG’s arrival, as this would represent more violence in the area and more armed clashes in their streets. Since there are no municipal police, residents have requested the intervention of the Secretariat of the Navy (SEMAR) and the Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA) to help push the cartel out of their towns. As the report indicates, CJNG is expanding their patrol across Mexican territories and publicly displaying their military grade weaponry to send a message of financial superiority and strength. **End OE Watch Commentary (Keshavarz and Bunker)**

*“CJNG sicarios survey the area at all hours and even put up road blocks.”*

**Source:** “Video: En un gran convoy sicarios del CJNG armados con barrets y ametralladoras caliber 50 circulen Zacatecas (Video: In a large convoy, CJNG gunmen are armed with barretts and .50 caliber machine guns as they circulate Zacatecas),” *NarcoViolencia*, 29 January 2019. <https://www.narcoviolencia.mx/2019/01/video-en-un-gran-convoy-sicarios-del.html?m=1>

*“As shown in the video, CJNG sicarios were in a large convoy in recent model trucks across towns in Zacatecas. They are seen carrying assault rifles, some with barretts and machine guns, and appear to be conducting surveillance.”*

**Source:** “Convoy del CJNG alarma a pobladores en municipios de Zacatecas [Video] (Convoy of CJNG alarms residents in municipalities of Zacatecas [Video]),” *La Net Noticias*, 24 January 2019. <https://www.lanetnoticias.com/estados/372216/convoy-del-cjng-alarma-a-pobladores-de-municipios-de-zacatecas-video>

*“After seeing the presence of CJNG members, the citizens of the towns of Apulco, Nochistlán, Tlachichila in Zacatecas requested the intervention of the Secretariat of the Navy (SEMAR) and the Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA) to remove the criminals from the streets.”*

*“CJNG sicarios survey the area at all hours and even put up road blocks.”*

## The Gulf Cartel’s Armored Vehicles

**OE Watch Commentary:** On 2 January 2019, at least two members of the Scorpions of the Gulf Cartel were killed by officers from the National Defense Secretariat (SEDENA) and the State Police of Tamaulipas in Mexico. The Scorpions are the armed wing of the Gulf Cartel. According to the accompanying excerpted article by *La Net Noticias*, a Mexico-based news outlet, police reported the confrontation first in Monterreal. The Scorpions were traveling in an armored Hummer and firing at authorities from a turret that was attached to the vehicle. The report explains that the fighting in the area is due to rival factions of the Gulf Cartel continuing to battle for control over Reynosa.

According to the accompanying excerpted article by *NarcoViolencia*, another Mexico-based news source, the Hummer had logos that identified the occupants as Scorpions of the Gulf Cartel of Matamoros. This is not the first instance Mexican authorities had been involved in a public shootout with the Gulf Cartel in armored vehicles. According to the report, on 31 December 2018, another group of Scorpions were traveling in similar armored trucks with the same logos. The report notes that, while the military managed to stop the turret-equipped armored vehicle, some of the Scorpions managed to escape in nearby armored trucks, in which a search by SEDENA and SEMAR (Secretariat of the Navy) forces is still pending. **End OE Watch Commentary (Keshavarz and Bunker)**

*“They were traveling in a Hummer truck armored and equipped with a turret, from which they fired shots.”*

**Source:** “Monstruos blindados: las imágenes del enfrentamiento contra sicarios del CDG (Armored Monsters: the images of the confrontation against gunmen of the CDG),” *La Net Noticias*, 4 January 2019. <https://www.lanetnoticias.com/viral/362147/monstruos-blindados-las-imagenes-del-enfrentamiento-contra-sicarios-del-cdg>

*“They were traveling in a Hummer truck armored and equipped with a turret, from which they fired shots, as well as with assault rifles.”*

**Source:** “El Cártel del Golfo traía Hummer blindada acondicionado como vehículo military táctico equipado con torreta para dispara military táctico equipado con torreta para disparar en Tamaulipas (The Gulf Cartel brought an armored Hummer fit to be a tactical military vehicle equipped with a turret in a shoot in Tamaulipas),” *NarcoViolencia*, 3 January 2019. <https://www.narcoviolencia.mx/2019/01/el-cartel-del-golfo-traia-hummer.html#>

*“The truck had logos that identified the members as Scorpions of the Gulf Cartel of Matamoros. On December 31, 2018, another group of sicarios were traveling in another armored truck with the same logos.”*

*“From 2010 to date, Tamaulipas confiscates the largest number of these armored vehicles, which have been used in clashes with authorities and rival groups. All types of trucks are modified with thick steel plates and have been manufactured in workshops by both the Gulf Cartel and its rival, Los Zetas.”*