

For Immediate Release

Beltran Leyva leaders profiled by World-Check years ahead of OFAC designations

London, 07 December 2009: On the 3rd of December the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated 22 individuals and 10 companies as Specially Designated Narcotics Traffickers (SDNT) for their ties to the Mexico-based Beltran Leyva organization. The organization is allegedly responsible for smuggling multi-ton shipments of cocaine from Central and South America, and multi-kilogram shipments of heroin from Mexico into the United States. World-Check researchers created in-depth profiles on the two leaders of the organization as early as 2005.

Alfredo Beltran Leyva, profiled by World-Check in May 2005, was arrested by Mexican federal authorities, pursuant to organized crime, drug trafficking, and unauthorized use of military grade weapons charges.

Hector Beltran Leyva, profiled by World-Check researchers in June 2006, was indicted for drug trafficking by Federal Grand Juries in the District of Columbia and the Eastern District of New York. He is also wanted for drug trafficking by Mexican federal authorities and is the subject of a reward of up to US \$2 million (30,000,000 Mexican Pesos) for information leading to his arrest.

The 22 individuals and 10 companies named are allegedly involved in air and vehicle shipping, electronics retailing, the import/export of health products, business consulting and hospitality services. Located throughout Mexico and also operating in Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Belize and the U.S, the OFAC sanction aims to cut off access to U.S financial systems and block trade with U.S companies and individuals, effectively freezing all assets relating to the designated individuals and companies.

"In recent years' major operations against narcotics cartels operating across Mexico have resulted in many arrests," said Daniel Peak, Chief Executive Officer of World-Check. "The Organised Crime Research Unit, through highly specialised research, identifies and prioritizes key trends in our continued commitment to provide the most up to date and complete risk relevant information."

About World-Check

Trusted by more than 3,800 institutions in over 160 countries, including 49 of the world's top 50 banks, World-Check offers an end-to-end solution for assessing, managing and remediating financial, regulatory and reputational risks.

World-Check's global database of Politically Exposed Individuals (PEPs) and heightened risk individuals and entities, due diligence reports, passport verification and country risk assessment tools provide the means to address the full spectrum of risk across all markets and industries. Represented across five continents, World-Check's international research team monitors emerging risks in more than 50 languages, covering over 240 countries and territories worldwide.

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