

GANG EXPERT SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW

Informed Consent Script

I am now going to ask you questions to get a deeper understanding of how the MS13 and other gangs you know about operate. Answering these questions will take between 45 and 60 minutes. The same rules apply: Nobody other than our research team will have access to the information you provide us. You should be aware that the results of this study will be published, but your name will never be used. De-identifiable data will be archived at the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data for future use by researchers. Participation in this study is voluntary. You are not required to participate and there is no negative recourse for not participating. You can refuse to answer any question for any reason. You can stop the interview at any time without penalty. This portion of the interview will be audio-recorded. If you do not wish to be audio-recorded, I will only take notes.

- 1) Explain briefly the type of work you do with gangs or how you know about gang activity.
- 2) Give me your definition of a gang.
- 3) How would you describe the MS13?
- 4) How would describe other gangs in the area?
- 5) Why do you think they join the gangs in the case of the MS13? In other cases?
- 6) Do you consider family members part of the gangs in the case of the MS13? Why or why not? Girlfriends?
- 7) Do you see the gangs as having hierarchy in the case of the MS13? Vertical or horizontal structures? How does that compare with other gangs in the area?
- 8) Do you see the gangs as having a lot of discipline in the case of the MS13? How can you tell? How does that compare with other gangs in the area?
- 9) How have the gangs' internal codes of discipline evolved?
- 10) How has recruitment evolved?
- 11) How has training the training evolved? (sending them to law school, business school?)
- 12) How have the gangs' dress codes evolved?

- 13) How has use of violence evolved? (more or less now) (in which circumstances do they use violence)
- 14) How have the gangs' style and means of communication evolved?
- 15) Is there a lot of movement of members between countries? Migration? Why?
- 16) What are the main streams of income for the gangs?
- 17) What is gangs' modus operandi in terms of:
 - a) extortion
 - b) human smuggling
 - c) human trafficking
 - d) local drug dealing (microtrafico o menudeo)
 - e) international drug dealing
 - f) weapons trafficking
- 18) What evidence do you have that gangs are moving into transnational criminal activities? What role do gangs play in the movement of illegal goods on an international level?
- 19) How would you characterize gangs relations with other criminal groups? Other gangs? Has there been some evolution in this? Are they more or less belligerent?
- 20) How do the gangs handle financial side? Who manages the money?
- 21) How do the gangs pay their members?
- 22) Does the gang have "life insurance" or other ways to help families of members who are jail or were killed? Describe.
- 23) Do the gangs contract out services? Under what circumstances?
- 24) Are gang members contracted out? Under what circumstances? Are they contracted out as individuals or as a gang? Under what circumstances?
- 25) How do the gangs handle extra capital they accumulate? What kind of businesses do they own? For what purposes are these businesses? Laundering money? Making money? Both?
- 26) Do the gangs pool resources for the common cause of the gang? Example: safe houses or gang cars?
- 27) Does this group promote or support a particular political issue? Are they connected to a specific political party? How? Describe that relationship.

28) Are gangs involved in:

- a) community associations
- b) churches, church activities
- c) sports leagues
- d) educational facilities
- e) other ____
- f) explain ____

29) How has the gangs' interaction with the community evolved?

30) Do the gangs play any role in resolving disputes, violent or otherwise, in the area? If so, give us an example.

31) How has the truce impacted the way gangs operate? With regards to extortions and other criminal activities? With regards to homicides?

32) In your earlier questions, you told me that there were XX number of gangs operating in this area, do you mind using this map (map provided) to draw where they operate.

33) How have these boundaries changed since the truce?

34) Do you see the truce as being an effective way to deal with the gangs? Why or why not?