



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION SITUATIONAL INFORMATION REPORT

### Criminal Activity Alert

Baltimore Division

27 September 2010

#### **(U//LES) New Rules from El Salvador for MS-13 Gang Members**

(U//LES) In August 2010, a collaborative source with good access provided the following information regarding new rules handed down from El Salvador for MS-13 gang members.

(U//LES) Rule 1: Any MS-13 member deported to his/her homeland (El Salvador) from the United States had to immediately contact the head of the member's respective clique in El Salvador. Once the deported MS-13 member contacted the head of the clique, the deported MS-13 member was given 13 days to kill a "chavala" (enemy). If the deported MS-13 member did not kill a chavala in 13 days, the deported MS-13 member could request an extension to this deadline; however, the extension required that the deported MS-13 member kill more than one chavala. At the end of the extension, if the deported MS-13 member had not killed chavalas, the deported MS-13 member would himself be killed. (Source comment: This rule was put into place because MS-13 members in El Salvador viewed US MS-13 members as "soft," and this allowed a deported US member to prove himself.

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(U//FOUO) If a deported MS-13 member did not have a corresponding MS-13 clique in El Salvador, the deported MS-13 member had to go to the head of another MS-13 clique in El Salvador and kill a chavala on behalf of that clique. The deported MS-13 member had to ask permission to “chill” with the other MS-13 clique first.

(U//FOUO) Rule 2: In the United States, MS-13 members were not allowed to drink alcohol outside of their residences or show their tattoos. (Source comment: This rule was in addition to the rules regarding no use of hand signs, no use of the “la garra” (evil horns) sign, and no fighting allowed between “home boys,” which were believed to draw unwanted attention to the gang.)

(U//FOUO) Rule 3: In the United States, if an MS-13 member violated any rule, an MS-13 member could ask another MS-13 member holding some sort of rank to hold “court” or “callentome” to discuss the violation. The first “court” involved a “soft discipline,” which was a 13-second beating. (Source comment: The beating was done by three to six members depending on how big or tough the member being disciplined was.) The second “court” went on for 23 seconds. The third “court” involved a beating with a baseball bat or knife for 13 seconds. If that did not stop the problem, then the MS-13 member was “green lighted” (a hit was put out on the member). (Source comment: MS-13 members in El Salvador also hold “court,” but it is not as strict.)

(U//LES) This information is being disseminated to law enforcement agencies in Maryland and Delaware to raise local law enforcement awareness of the new rules regarding MS-13 gang members.

(U) This report has been prepared by the Baltimore Division of the FBI. Comments and queries may be addressed to the Baltimore Field Intelligence Group at 410-277-6314.

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