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Reporting Accurate and Objective Information Based on Facts, not Agenda-Setting Theories

Dominic Casey | Private Investigator

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Mara Salvatrucha aka MS-13

Clear and Present Danger! Mara Salvatrucha aka MS-13 is spreading throughout the USA, Canada and Mexico and has been referred to by Customs and Border Patrol as a border mafia.

Dismemberment and death is the MO of the most dangerous gang in the world. Human trafficking, weapons sales, drug distribution, identity theft, prostitution, burglaries and homicides are carried out by MS-13 members. [Their hand sign is the horns.](#)

According to the FBI's [National Gang Threat Assessment 2009](#), worldwide gang membership is estimated to be between 30,000-50,000 with 8,000 -10,000 residing in the USA.

MS-13 gang membership consists of [El Salvadorans](#), [Hondurans](#), [Guatemalans](#), [Mexican and Central and South American immigrants](#) and have activity in 42 states and Washington, D.C. Although the FBI considers the northeast and west to have the highest threat, the increase in violence in the southeast appears to have a connection to the recent influx of MS-13. According to the FBI, gangs are everywhere. "There are gangs in the military . . . gangs in prison . . . gangs all over the Internet (recruiting, communicating, intimidating) . . . gangs on Native American reservations . . . and gangs on motorcycles roving the countryside. More and more women are joining gangs, too, sometimes leading their own subsets of larger criminal groups.

Because a gang offers *family acceptance, protection, the potential to earn money by selling drugs, auto thefts and burglaries and having access to liquor, drugs and girls who are attracted to gang guys*, many young people see a gang as a positive association.

During the 1990s, as a result of the civil war in El Salvador, more than one million Salvadorans were sent to the USA and settled in Los Angeles and northern Virginia. Some of the refugees were guerilla fighters involved in the civil war and excelled in military training with machetes. They were not well received by the street gangs, so to protect themselves they organized their own gang the Mara Salvatrucha aka MS-13. Their key rival was the 18th Street Gang. Eventually, the MS-13 was no longer the protector, but became the abuser.

Because of their gang activities, they were often deported back to their country, thus the MS-13 strengthened when they returned to the USA with additional gang members who were illegal immigrants. Prison camaraderie also appears to have strengthened this gang.

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For more info regarding: **Mara Salvatrucha aka MS-13:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHHfP-a0-2Q&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MN0Nkt3gfhE&feature=related>