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**Examining the Cross-Border Fentanyl
and Methamphetamine Network of
Javier Algreto Vazquez**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In late February 2024, Mexican national Javier Algreto Vazquez was sentenced to prison for importing methamphetamine and partaking in a money laundering conspiracy on behalf of Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion (CJNG), one of the largest suppliers of fentanyl and other illicit drugs to the United States.¹ A Department of Justice (DOJ) press release elaborates on Vazquez's individual contribution:

Algreto Vazquez imported over five million kilograms of chemicals into Mexico, including enough precursors to produce over 700 million doses of methamphetamine and over two billion doses of fentanyl. Algreto Vazquez also transferred millions of dollars from the U.S. to chemical suppliers in China and India to procure the chemicals.²

Starting in 2011, Algreto Vazquez used front companies in Mexico and the U.S. to purchase the chemicals from China, India, and other countries.³ The scheme involved first importing the chemicals for CJNG and other Mexican drug-trafficking organizations, which then manufactured methamphetamine and fentanyl for sale within the United States.⁴

In its investigation, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) "identified several seemingly legitimate U.S. companies that acquired precursor chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine from China and imported them into Mexico," including U.S.-based Pro Chemie New York Inc.⁵ Algreto Vazquez also collaborated with his brother, Carlos Algreto Vazquez, whose Mexico-based company MB Barter & Trading Mexico SA DE CV imported precursors from China.⁶

An examination of public records reveals additional attributes and individuals associated with Algreto Vazquez's companies, along with companies not listed in the public indictment, warranting a deeper investigation into potential co-conspirators and front companies used to import key precursors.

1 "Precursor Chemical Broker Sentenced for Methamphetamine Importation and Money Laundering Conspiracies." Office of Public Affairs, United States Department of Justice, February 23, 2024, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/precursor-chemical-broker-sentenced-methamphetamine-importation-and-money-laundering>.

2 Ibid.

3 "Foreign Nationals Charged with International Methamphetamine and Precursor Chemical Trafficking Conspiracies." Office of Public Affairs, United States Department of Justice, February 8, 2023, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/foreign-nationals-charged-international-methamphetamine-and-precursor-chemical-trafficking>.

4 Ibid.

5 "United States v. Vazquez," Casetext Search, accessed April 19, 2024, casetext.com/case/united-states-v-vazquez-153.

6 Ibid.

MB Barter & Trading Mexico SA DE CV

A review of Mexican public records and trade data provides additional information, including an address and “Registro Federal de Contribuyentes,” or RFC, (tax ID) number, about MB Barter & Trading Mexico SA DE CV, the Mexican company reportedly involved in Algreto Vazquez’s operations.

MB BARTER & TRADING MEXICO SA DE CV

Identifiers Mexico RFC - MBT141120RR5

Names MB BARTER & TRADING MEXICO SA DE CV

Address NORTENAS, 91 COL. BENITO JUAREZ NEZAHUALCOYOTL MEX 57000 MEXICO

Fig 1. MB Barter & Trading Mexico SA DE CV identifiers, from the company’s entity profile in Sayari Graph

While Carlos Algreto Vazquez, Javier’s brother, is reported as the company’s majority shareholder, another individual, Maria del Carmen Hernandez Martinez, is listed as a minority shareholder, based on records from Mexico’s Public Registry of Commerce. Those records contain valuable information about both shareholders, including their nationalities, potential domiciles, and the company’s business purpose.

Domicilio	Nombre / Denominación / Razón Social	Primer Apellido	Segundo Apellido	RFC, CURP, fecha nacimiento	Nacionalidad
CALLE MORELOS NÚMERO CIENTO VEINTIUNO, COLONIA DEL CARMEN, DELEGACIÓN COYOACÁN, MÉXICO DISTRITO FEDERAL	CARLOS	ALGREDO	VAZQUEZ		MEXICANO
CALLE MORELOS NÚMERO CIENTO VEINTIUNO, COLONIA DEL CARMEN, DELEGACIÓN COYOACÁN, MÉXICO DISTRITO FEDERAL	MARIA DEL CARMEN	HERNANDEZ	MARTINEZ		MEXICANO

Fig 2. Original incorporation records from Mexico’s Public Registry of Commerce showing the reported names, nationalities, and domiciles of MB Barter & Trading shareholders, retrieved through Sayari Graph

Although little is known about the other shareholder, Maria del Carmen Hernandez Martinez, a Sayari Graph search of the name yields at least twenty profiles of Mexican nationals who share the name and have ties to various Mexican companies. Some results include Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs), based on data from the Mexico DeclaraNet Plus Public Servant Registry. While beyond the scope of this paper, additional research into Hernandez Martinez may identify other front companies involved in the scheme, assuming she was complicit in Algreto Vazquez’s illicit operations.

Although the reported imports of precursors related to the scheme are dated, a review of trade data associated with MB Barter & Trading reveals more recent precursor shipments between 2021 and 2023. These shipments of oxygenated carboxylic acids, halide compounds, saturated acids, and oxygenated amines originated from China and Germany, two jurisdictions well known for their chemical industries.



Fig 3. A Sayari Graph network visualization depicting precursor shipments to MB Barter & Trading, the majority of which occurred following the arrest of Javier Alfredo Vazquez

Pro Chemie New York Inc

A review of public records from the New York Corporate Registry indicates that Pro Chemie New York Inc, one of the U.S.-based companies reported to have been involved in Algreto Vazquez’s operations, was still active as of early March 2024. The reported address, 4215 Ketcham Street, appears to be associated with Carlos Algreto Vazquez.

PRO CHEMIE NEW YORK INC

Identifiers	USA New York DOS ID Number - 4599502
Names	PRO CHEMIE NEW YORK INC
Status	Active (As Of 2014-06-27)
Registration/Incorporation Date	2014-06-27
Company Type	DOMESTIC BUSINESS CORPORATION
Address	4215 KETCHAM STREET, ELMHURST, NY, 11373

Fig 4. Pro Chemie New York Inc identifiers from the company’s entity profile in Sayari Graph

U.S. trade records reveal that Pro Chemie was listed on bills of lading as the notify party⁷ for at least two shipments in August 2021, just one month prior to Javier Algreto Vazquez’s arrest. Most importantly, these records reveal that other companies were the ostensible buyers of the chemical precursors, not Pro Chemie or MB Barter & Trading Mexico SA DE CV. In each case, oxalic acid, a chemical critical to the synthesis of methamphetamine, was shipped from Indian supplier Punjab Chemicals and Crop Protection to other Mexican companies. For context, Punjab Chemicals was mentioned in court documents related to the Algreto case, and additional reporting from Insight Crime has revealed other suspicious shipments tied to the company.⁸

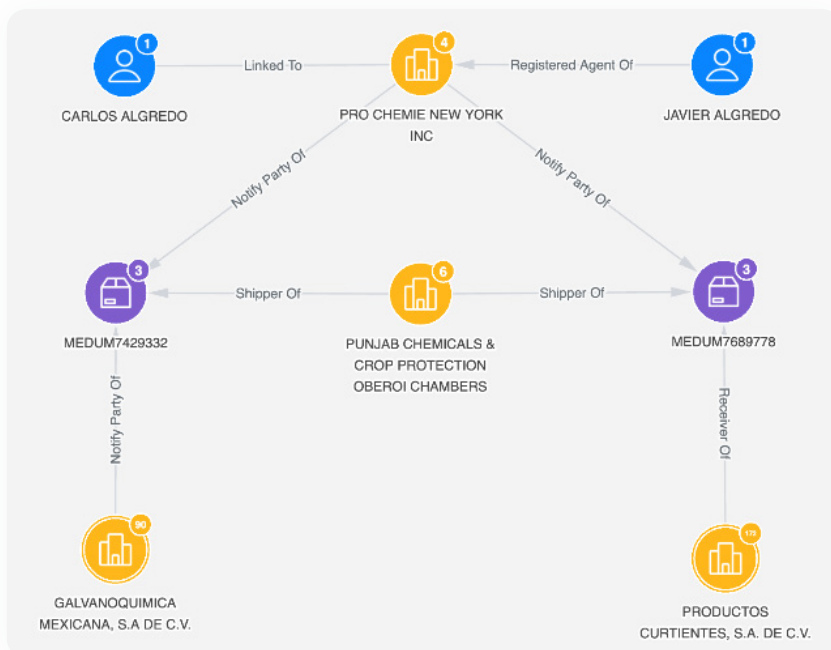


Fig 5. A Sayari Graph visualization depicting two Mexican companies (bottom left and right) linked to Pro Chemie New York Inc (top)

Productos Curtientes S.A. DE C.V.

The name of a Guadalajara-based company, Productos Curtientes S.A. DE C.V., appears in one shipment where Pro Chemie is listed as the notify party. Notably, this company is located in Jalisco Province, home to CJNG. Mexican corporate records reveal many current and former stakeholders of the company. Some of the names are misspelled and may include duplicates or family members, based on Mexican naming conventions. Additional research into these individuals may therefore be warranted, given their potential connection to Javier Algreto Vazquez’s network.

⁷ Notify parties are those informed by a carrier or freight forwarder about the shipment’s status or arrival.

⁸ Sara Garcia, “Beyond China: How Other Countries Provide Precursor Chemicals to Mexico,” InSight Crime, February 28, 2024, insightcrime.org/investigations/beyond-china-other-countries-provide-precursor-chemicals-mexico/.



Fig 6. A Sayari Graph visualization depicting key stakeholders tied to Productos Curtientes S.A. DE C.V.

Trade data from seven sources, including Mexican import data, includes valuable information on Productos Curtientes, including its tax identification number (RFC), address, contact number, and business purpose.

PRODUCTOS CURTIENTES S.A. DE C.V.

Identifiers	Mexico RFC - PCU910906QV4
Names	PRODUCTOS CURTIENTES S.A. DE C.V.
Registration/Incorporation Date	Incorporated 1991-09-06
Business Purpose	ELABORACIÓN DE PRODUCTOS QUÍMICOS PARA LA INDUSTRIA DE CURTIDURIA
Address	LIBERTAD, 1368, GUADALAJARA, 44100
Contact	01 333 825-6036

Fig 7. Productos Curtientes S.A. DE C.V. identifiers from the company's entity profile in Sayari Graph

An analysis of Productos Curtientes S.A. DE C.V. trade data also reveals that the company has primarily imported tanning extracts and synthetic tanning substances, providing a potential cover for the Algreto brothers' import of key drug precursors.

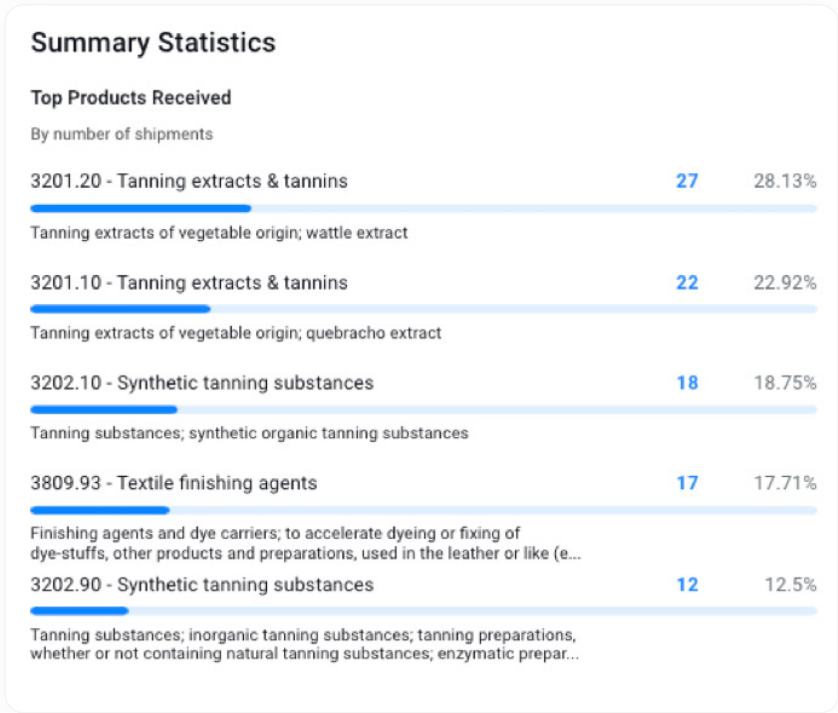


Fig 8. The top products received by Productos Curtientes S.A. DE C.V., from the company's entity profile in Sayari Graph

Galvanoquimica Mexicana, S.A. DE C.V.

The other shipment of oxalic acid that lists Pro Chemie as a notify party does not have a listed buyer, but it is worth noting that the Mexican company, Galvanoquimica Mexicana, S.A. DE C.V., is also listed under notify party in the same shipment. The Mexico National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) company directory lists this company's business purpose as "wholesale trade of chemicals for the pharmaceutical industry and for other industrial use," along with other key identifiers and contact information. This connection to Pro Chemie suggests the company may also have been utilized by Javier Algreto Valzquez to import precursors from overseas.

Trade data from six sources, including Mexican import data, provides more information on the company, including an address, RFC, and additional contact information.



Fig 9. Galvanoquimica Mexicana, S.A. DE C.V. identifiers from the company's entity profile in Sayari Graph

Only half of Galvanoquimica’s shipments list an actual supplier, and a majority of shipments — primarily originating in China and Germany — appear to be precursors. While bills of lading sometimes fail to include a named supplier, it is worth noting if certain patterns of omission emerge, as these could be tied to illicit activity.

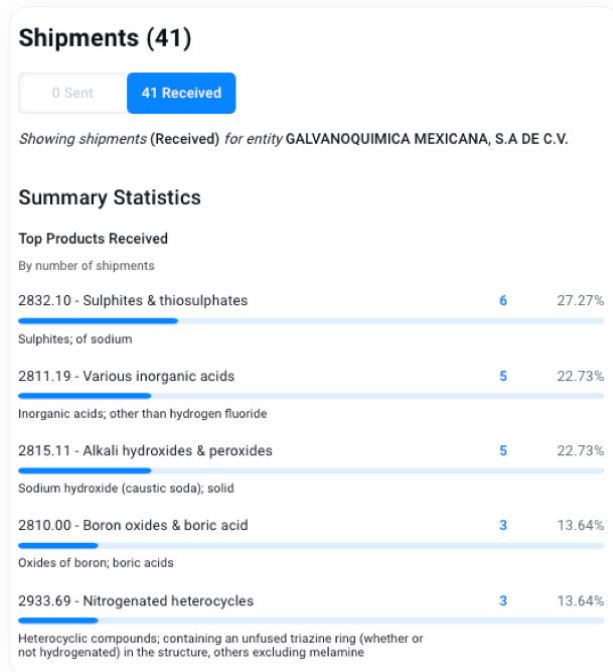


Fig 10. The top products received by Galvanoquimica Mexicana, S.A. DE C.V., from the company’s entity profile in Sayari Graph

Conclusion

By analyzing public records associated with the chemical procurement network of Javier Algreto Vazquez, we were able to identify additional information that was not reported in the press or public court records. This includes valuable attributes and relationship information tied to Algreto Vazquez’s companies in the U.S. and Mexico. Moreover, we were able to identify two other Mexican companies listed on shipment records associated with Pro Chemie, Algreto Vazquez’s U.S.-based company. An analysis of these companies’ shipment records confirms the importation of precursors from an Indian supplier that was mentioned in U.S. court records as having supplied entities associated with Algreto Vazquez. Given these links, a deeper investigation may be warranted to ensure these entities and affiliated individuals have not assisted CJNG or other Mexican cartels.

A B O U T S A Y A R I

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