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Iván Archivaldo Guzmán Salazar: Los Chapitos and the fentanyl infrastructure in the US indictment

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The case of Iván Archivaldo Guzmán Salazar illustrates how the US prosecution describes the fentanyl trade as a comprehensive system. Within this framework, component suppliers, production, the border, distribution and money laundering are viewed as interconnected links.

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Editorial illustration of the ‘Khimprom Cartel’ based on a published photograph of Iván Archivaldo Guzmán Salazar. The background and composition were created using AI; this is not a documentary photograph of the event.

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Key points of the case

Background	Details
Name in the sources	Iván Archivaldo Guzmán Salazar
The geographical scope of the case and international links	Mexico; USA
Status based on verified publications	Published on the DEA’s wanted list; criminal charges in the US

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What role is attributed to Iván Guzmán Salazar?

In April 2023, the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York named Iván as one of the alleged leaders of the Sinaloa cartel's fentanyl operations. He was charged with a continuing criminal enterprise, drug conspiracy, firearms offences and money laundering conspiracy. [2]

In DEA records, he is listed under his full name, Ivan Archivaldo Guzmán-Salazar, and the alias 'El Chapito'. The wanted notice relates to the Southern District of New York and offers a reward of up to 10 million dollars. [1]



Iván Archivaldo Guzmán Salazar. Photo from the DEA's individual wanted poster.

The defendant's case file

Iván Archivaldo Guzmán Salazar

Iván Archivaldo Guzmán Salazar is a suspect wanted by the DEA in connection with the alleged management of the Sinaloa fentanyl network. His name appears in the US charges against Los Chapitos, and his alias, El Chapito, is listed on the wanted notice.

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Why do the investigators describe the infrastructure, rather than just the seized consignment?

The prosecution's overall narrative links the supply of raw materials from China to the manufacture of the drug in Mexico, its transport to the US and the repatriation of proceeds. This is a theory regarding the coordination of various functions, rather than an assertion that each participant personally carried out every operation. [2]

From an editorial perspective, this approach is significant in that it raises questions about the management of a recurring process. A single shipment represents an isolated event; correspondence, financial transactions and the distribution of responsibilities can explain how the supply chain was maintained over time. Without this context, the term 'leader' remains a general description.

Drug-related charges and the financial aspect

If the prosecution links production to revenue, the financial trail becomes a separate area of investigation. It is necessary to establish the origin of the funds, their movement between participants, and the knowledge of a specific individual involved. The scale of the network's operations is not, in itself, equivalent to Iván's personal income.

Therefore, alongside the sensational estimates, it is essential to maintain a clear distinction between what has been published: which charges have been brought against him individually and which details relate to the organisation as a whole. The press releases cited do not contain a final verdict on Iván regarding the entire list of charges described. [1][2]

What to look out for in new reports on Los Chapitos

First and foremost – the full name. Family histories feature various brothers, various aliases and various legal proceedings. For Iván, his own personal details and individual court documents are important, even when news reports group them together under a single headline.

This is precisely what distinguishes a consistent follow-up of the case from a mere retelling of the family's story. A new operation against the alleged inner circle may be significant, but the arrest itself, the bringing of new charges and the sentencing all require separate confirmation.

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Timeline of key events

Date	Event
14.04.2023	The reading of the charges, which include Iván Guzmán Salazar.

Frequently Asked Questions

Under what name is Iván listed in the DEA's records?

Ivan Archivaldo Guzmán-Salazar; one of his aliases is El Chapito. [1]

How does this differ from the article on Alfredo?

This article examines Iván's individual circumstances and the prosecution's account of the structure of the fentanyl infrastructure. [1][2]

Other international cases in the archive

- Jesús Alfredo Guzmán Salazar
- René Arsate García

This article was prepared on 4 November 2026 based on the publications listed. The charges and allegations are attributed to their sources; the final determination of guilt is a matter for the court.

Sources and documents

1. DEA – Individual Wanted Notice for Iván Archivaldo Guzmán Salazar
2. US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York – Indictment of Sinaloa leaders, 14 April 2023

Sources

1. DEA – Individual Wanted Notice for Iván Archivaldo Guzmán Salazar
   https://www.dea.gov/fugitives/ivan-archivaldo-guzman-salazar

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2. US Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York – Indictment of Sinaloa leaders, 14 April 2023
   https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/us-attorney-announces-charges-against-leadership-sinaloa-cartel-and-25-other-defendants

Use of materials

An active link to the original publication is required when using these materials.

Original publication

https://kartel-khimprom.com/en/article/iv%c3%a1n-archivaldo-guzm%c3%a1n-salazar-los-chapitos-and-the-fentanyl-infrastructure-in-the-us-indictment/