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Fausto Isidro Mesa Flores: Chapo Isidro, a long-running US case and a Ten Most Wanted fugitive

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Fausto Isidro Mesa Flores has been featured in US case files for more than ten years. The story of Chapo Isidro illustrates how an initial charge, subsequent changes to the case and a high-priority manhunt have become different stages of a single international manhunt.



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Editorial illustration of the ‘Khimprom Cartel’ based on a published photograph of Fausto Isidro Mesa Flores. 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 sources	Fausto Isidro Meza Flores
The region covered by the case and its international links	Mexico; USA; Sinaloa
Status based on verified publications	Listed on the FBI’s Most Wanted list; facing criminal charges in the US

From the 2012 indictment to the 2019 document

The FBI cites the original charge dated 2 May 2012 in the District of Columbia. The amended charge and federal arrest warrant are dated 26 November 2019. The case file details drug offences and the use or possession of firearms. [1]

In December 2019, the Department of Justice reported on an alleged conspiracy spanning the period from approximately January 2005 to November 2019. This timeline reflects the prosecution’s version of events, rather than a published list of proven individual acts for each year. [2]

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Fausto Isidro Mesa Flores. Photo from the FBI’s individual wanted person file.

Suspect’s file

> **Fausto Isidro Mesa Flores**
>
> Fausto Isidro Mesa Flores, known as Chapo Isidro, is on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted list. The US agency considers him to be the alleged leader of the Meza-Flores Transnational Criminal Organisation, based in Sinaloa, Mexico.

What does the Meza-Flores TCO stand for?

US authorities describe the Meza-Flores Transnational Criminal Organisation as an alleged drug trafficking network based in Sinaloa. The wanted notice lists the manufacture, transport and distribution of drugs in Mexico, as well as their importation into the US. [1]

This designation is significant in the context of theories regarding the organisation’s leadership. It necessitates a separate examination of its resources, members and the directives of the alleged leader. The designation by surname does not, in itself, provide an answer as to which actions were

carried out personally by Mesa Flores.

Why inclusion on the Ten Most Wanted list is news in its own right

On 4 February 2025, the FBI announced that Fausto Mesa Flores had been added to the Ten Most Wanted list. The announcement included a photograph, details of his connection to previous charges and an offer from the State Department of a reward of up to $5 million. [3]

This is an escalation of the public manhunt, not a new conviction. The list helps to elicit information about the individual, but the outcome of the case is determined by the case files themselves. Changes in the priority of the manhunt and the substantiation of the charges should be assessed separately.

Chapo Isidro and El Chapo: why the full name is essential

The nickname ‘Chapo Isidro’ refers to Fausto Isidro Mesa Flores. The similarity to the name ‘El Chapo’ does not make him Joaquín Guzmán. His individual FBI file contains his own date of birth – 19 June 1982 – and his own photograph. [1]

Reports of operations against his alleged inner circle also need to be verified using his full name. For this story, the key development will be a confirmed change in the whereabouts of the most-wanted man himself, rather than yet another arrest in Sinaloa.

Timeline of key events

Date	Event
02.05.2012	The initial charge in the District of Columbia.
26.11.2019	Amended charges and a federal arrest warrant.
04.02.2025	Inclusion on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted list.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Is Chapo Isidro the same person as Joaquín Guzmán?

No. This article is about Fausto Isidro Mesa Flores, who has a separate FBI profile. [1]

When was he added to the Ten Most Wanted list?

4 February 2025. [3]

Other international cases in the archive

- Carlos Alberto Paez Pereda
- René Arsate García

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

Sources and documents

1. FBI – Fausto Isidro Meza Flores’s individual wanted person file
2. US Department of Justice – Amended charges against Chapo Isidro, 6 December 2019
3. FBI — Fausto Isidro Meza-Flores added to the Ten Most Wanted list, 4 February 2025

Sources

1. FBI – Fausto Isidro Meza Flores’s individual wanted person file
   https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/topten/fausto-isidro-meza-flores
2. US Department of Justice – Amended charges against Chapo Isidro, 6 December 2019
   https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/leader-violent-mexican-drug-trafficking-organization-charged-international-drug-importation
3. FBI — Fausto Isidro Meza-Flores added to the Ten Most Wanted list, 4 February 2025
   https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/fausto-isidro-meza-flores-added-to-fbis-ten-most-wanted-fugitives-list

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Use of materials

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Original publication

https://kartel-khimprom.com/en/article/fausto-isidro-mesa-flores-chapo-isidro-a-long-running-us-case-and-a-ten-most-wanted-fugitive/

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