

Operation Utara Briefing Note - 13th November 2015

The purpose of this briefing note is to provide AC Gallan with an updated briefing on the current direction and strategy for **Operation Utara**.

Operation Utara commenced in April 2012 targeting a Turkish familial OCG headed by **Gurhan Karatas**. The Karatas family are a long established crime family importing and distributing Class A and B drugs throughout the capital and beyond from their North East London roots.

Gurhan Karatas remains a principal strategic target, however during the period of this latest authority **Ramazin Sakinc** has been identified as operating on a similar level.

This operation provides a significant response to the strategic threat posed to London from organized Turkish Crime and dovetails with Operation Etana being conducted by our colleagues from the Central Task Force at Catford.

The key players on **Utara** are inextricably linked to the Tottenham Turks who still have an ongoing feud with rival Hackney groups, which has manifested itself in well publicised shootings and murders over the last few years. There are current tensions between the **EREN family** in particular and other rival factions in Hackney following the murder in Turkey of an EREN family member.

The current intelligence assets have allowed us to monitor those tensions and identify several arrest/disruption opportunities which have arisen. This has continued to yield results as outlined below re firearm arrests / recoveries.

20.10.15 Armed Stop in Frien Barnet Road, N11. Ali URUGLU arrested for POCA offences in possession of £11,00 cash

13.10.15 Izzet EREN and Erwin AMOYAH-GYAMFI Armed stop on a LOS motorcycle suspects wearing balaclavas in possession of a scorpion machine gun with ammunition and a 9mm semi automatic handgun with ammunition. Both charged and pleaded Guilty to Possession W/I endanger life and other offences.

07.11.15 Search [DPA] Tottenham. 8mm handgun and ammo recovered.

10.11.15 Armed stop - Derrick BARRY semi auto automatic handgun and ammo

As **Utara** has developed, the full extent of the OCG has been identified with the intelligence trail now directly linked to local gang violence, having a positive impact upon local community safety issues.

The existing Part 3 authority encompasses both **Gurhan Karatas , Ramazin Sakinc, Ozcan Eren** and their chief lieutenants and associates.

Although often independent, these networks trade with each other if any given circumstances dictates.

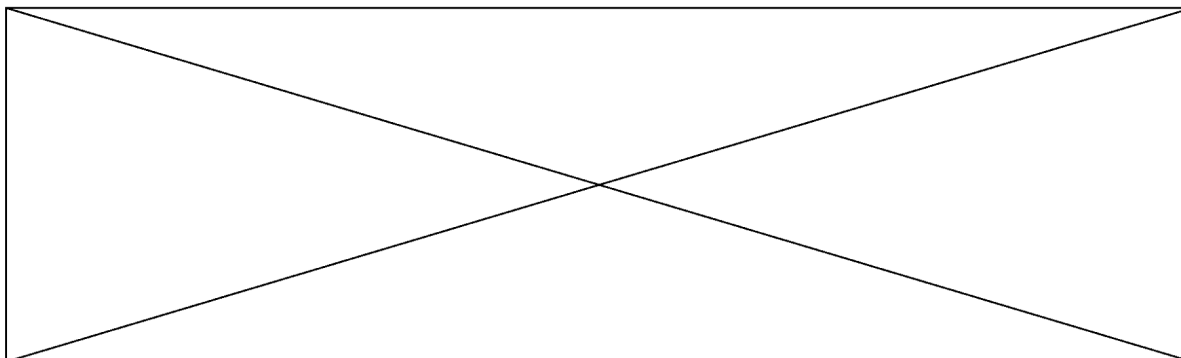
The current authority remains necessary to provide flexible and sufficient coverage of the extended network to ensure our existing intelligence assets remain current.

Deployments are only made when necessary to fill identified intelligence gaps in a timely manner.

There are **no other intelligence sources** available to provide the quality of information required for dealing with this level of criminality.

The current operational strategy

To continue working with our intelligence assets to identify opportunities to obtain **direct evidence against Gurhan Karatas, the EREN family, Ramazin Sakinc and other named subjects.**



The nature of these criminals is such that any operational team has to keep undermining the network and be in a position to seize the rare opportunities that arise to obtain direct evidence against the principals.

In the interim we have sought to continue disrupting the OCGs activity. During the last month we have achieved no less than five different arrests and recovery of 4 firearms and ammunition. From thisch arrest provides potential opportunities to construct conspiratorial evidence against the higher placed subjects. (e.g. during this review period the ten kilo seizure.)

Such a strategy continues to be successful. In total this operation has recovered over 200 kilos of Class A drugs and just under half a million pounds in cash. There has been