

Treasury Sanctions Mexico-Based Transnational Criminal Organization Smuggling Migrants into the United States

Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned the **Bhardwaj Human Smuggling Organization** (Bhardwaj HSO), a transnational criminal organization (TCO) based in Cancun, Mexico, as well as its leader **Vikrant Bhardwaj** (Bhardwaj), three other individuals, and 16 companies that have facilitated and profited from the HSO's criminal activities. The Bhardwaj HSO has smuggled thousands of illegal aliens from Europe, the Middle East, South America, and Asia into the United States. In addition to human smuggling, the Bhardwaj HSO is involved in drug trafficking, bribery, and money laundering.

"At the direction of Secretary Bessent and President Trump, the Treasury Department is taking action to crack down on human smugglers," said **Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence John K. Hurley**. "Today's action, in collaboration with our law enforcement partners, disrupts this network's ability to smuggle illegal aliens into the United States. The Trump Administration will continue to target and dismantle terrorist transnational criminal organizations to protect the American people."

THE BHARDWAJ HUMAN SMUGGLING ORGANIZATION

The Bhardwaj HSO is a sophisticated organization that has blended various transportation methods to facilitate the travel — by air and sea — of undocumented migrants from countries that pose national security concerns to the United States. The Bhardwaj HSO utilizes its own yachts and marinas to transport undocumented migrants into Mexico.

Vikrant Bhardwaj (Bhardwaj) is a dual Indian-Mexican national and the leader of the Bhardwaj HSO. Bhardwaj is the self-identified founder and chief executive officer of several companies in Mexico, India, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He collects and launders illicit money through his marinas and various businesses. Bhardwaj has been able to evade law enforcement authorities while continuing to profit from human smuggling and drug trafficking.

Senior members involved in day-to-day operations and logistics for the Bhardwaj HSO include **Jose German Valadez Flores** (Valadez), a businessman and drug trafficker who is a close associate of Bhardwaj. Valadez plays a significant role in smuggling migrants into Cancun by bribing corrupt Mexican officials. **Jorge Alejandro Mendoza Villegas** (Mendoza), a former police officer in the state of Quintana Roo, has access to the Cancun International Airport to help coordinate the arrival and departure of undocumented migrants. Since 2020, Mendoza has supported the Bhardwaj HSO human smuggling and drug trafficking activities through the Cancun International Airport.

Bhardwaj's wife, **Indu Rani** (Rani) is a dual Indian-Mexican national who is involved in her husband's financial operations and serves as a co-shareholder of several companies in India and Mexico.

Rani is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13581, as amended, for having acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, Bhardwaj.

In addition to exposing key individuals of the Bhardwaj HSO, OFAC designated **Veena Shivani Estates Private Limited**, a real estate company in India pursuant to E.O. 13581, as amended, for being owned or controlled by, or having acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, Bhardwaj and Rani.

- A restaurant and bar in India, **Michigantap Hospitality Private Limited**
- Three companies engaged in real estate activities in India, and the UAE: **VVN Buildcon Private Limited, Bhavishya Realcon Private Limited, and VVN Real Estate L.L.C**
- An energy and fuel trading company based in the UAE, **Black Gold Plus Energies Trading L.L.C**
- Two yachting and touring services companies based in Mexico, **V AND V Astillero, S.A. de C.V. and Operadora Turistica Principessa, S.A. de C.V.**
- A supermarket in Mexico, **VNV Store, S.A. de C.V.**

OFAC designated three companies based in Mexico pursuant to E.O. 13581, as amended, for being owned or controlled by, or having acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, Rani:

- A real estate company, **Bhardwaj, S.A. de C.V.**
- A business support services provider, **Thercumex, S.A. de C.V.**
- A textiles retailer, **VNV Fashions, S.A. de C.V.**

OFAC additionally designated three companies based in Mexico pursuant to E.O. 13581, as amended, for being owned or controlled by, or having acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, Valadez:

- A construction company, **Constructora Gerlife, S.A. de C.V.**
- A transportation company, **Comercializadora Vespa, S.A. de C.V.**
- A reservation services company, **Comercialicun, S.A. de C.V.**

OFAC also designated one company based in Mexico pursuant to E.O. 13581, as amended, for being owned or controlled by, or having acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, Mendoza: a construction company, **Cargas Y Regulaciones Electricas, S.A. de C.V.**

As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of the designated or blocked persons described above that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons are blocked and must be reported to OFAC. In addition, any entities that are owned, directly or indirectly, individually or in the aggregate, 50 percent or more by one or more blocked persons are also blocked.

Dated 30 October, 2025

