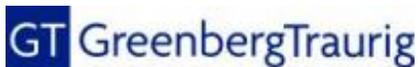


U.S. Sanctions Mexican Executive, Airline, and Newspaper Tied to Drug Trafficking Organization



Article By

[Kara M. Bombach](#)

[Cyril T. Brennan](#)

[Greenberg Traurig, LLP](#)

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On Dec. 16, 2015, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated a Mexican national, Naim Libien Tella, and four Mexican entities linked to Libien Tella, under the Kingpin Act. The new designations, which include a Mexican airline and newspaper, stem from Libien Tella's narco-trafficking activities in association with the Los Cuinis cartel.

The sanctioned individual and entities now listed on OFAC's Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) List are:

- LIBIEN TELLA, NAIM, of Toluca, Mexico;
- AEROLINEAS AMANECER, S.A. DE C.V. (aka AEROAMANECER), of Mexico City, Mexico;
- DIARIO AMANECER, of Mexico City, Mexico;
- UNOMASUNO (aka UNO MAS UNO), of Mexico City, Mexico; and
- VALGO GRUPO DE INVERSION S.A. DE C.V., of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Under the Kingpin Act and other sanctions programs, U.S. persons are prohibited from dealings with individuals and entities named on OFAC's SDN List. More challenging from a compliance standpoint, however, U.S. persons are likewise prohibited from dealings with entities that are not specifically enumerated on the SDN List, but are owned 50% or more in the aggregate by any designated entities or individuals.

Even non-U.S. individuals and entities that have had business dealings with the recently-designated Kingpin Act entities and individual should carefully review their relationships and assess the potential risk for future interactions or transactions. Although the Kingpin Act designation does not bar all transactions, and generally addresses only assets or transactions in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons, a violation of the Kingpin Act can result in both criminal and civil enforcement in the United States. Additionally, entities or individuals that are deemed to be providing material support to any designated individuals or entities run the risk of becoming the target of U.S. sanctions themselves.

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