

Cartel web presence could be used against them: experts

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Experts from 20 countries gathered Wednesday at the Mexican resort town of Cancun to discuss a strategy for battling organized crime, in an effort mandated by the recent Summit of the Americas.

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Quicker communication between countries to crack down on [gangs](#) is a must for regional security, officials said.

"Greater cooperation on [information exchange](#) in real time is necessary in order to make operations more effective," Colombian [police chief](#) Oscar Naranjo told the gathering.

"Criminals take advantage of their networks... we must take advantage of our superiority as governments," Naranjo added.

Groups like the Zetas -- a brutal gang of former hitmen -- have also been using the web not just to help their operations, but to terrify their enemies and normal Mexican citizens with videos of executions, images of victims after torture and killing, and to hunt down critics who denounce violence online.

An expert in military intelligence said those same methods could be used to obtain information on the gangs, notably to locate offenders using tracking methods that search through photos and messages from cellular phones.

[Press freedom](#) groups have condemned growing attacks and killings of people who use social networks to share information in violent areas of Mexico, where traditional media no longer dare to report on relentless drug-related violence.

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