

Texas cops raid apartment complex taken over by Tren de Aragua gang members, make 20 busts

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Texas law enforcement raided a vacant San Antonio apartment complex that had fallen under the “control” of the notorious Tren de Aragua gang, which was using the building as a base for crime, officials said.

A multi-agency task force cleared more than 300 vacant units at the Palatia Apartments on the North Side of the city on Saturday morning, San Antonio Police Chief Chief McManus [told reporters at a press conference](#).

SAPD had received several complaints from the apartment complex regarding narcotics, human trafficking and threats to apartment personnel, according to police.



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Twenty people were arrested at the apartment complex on Saturday. NEWS 4SA

“We had information that members of the transnational gang Tren de Agua were in control of the area and committing various crimes,” McManus said.

Twenty people were arrested, four who are confirmed Tren de Agua members — including one person who is an “enforcer,” he said.

Nineteen of those detained were charged. Several of those arrested had confirmed warrants, officials said.

The apartments were searched by a joint team of officers from SAPD, Texas Department of Public Safety, Federal Bureau of Investigation and US Customs and Border Protection, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and Homeland Security Investigations.



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At least four of those arrested were confirmed Tren de Agua gang members. NEWS 4SA



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The four gang members were taken into custody by the Department of Homeland Security. NEWS 4SA

The arrests come after a weeks-long investigation as part of SAPD's "Operation Aurora" initiative, which is part of a broader effort to disrupt Tren de Aragua's influence in Texas.

Authorities believe Tren de Aragua in San Antonio is involved in prostitution, selling of cocaine, and other violent crimes, [according to News4SA](#).

McManus said Saturday that the gang has been operating in the area for "several months"

He said they have identifying tattoos and are known to wear red.



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Law enforcement agencies raided the Palatia apartment complex before dawn. NEWS 4SA



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“We assure the community and members of the public that we are committed to their safety and on top of this TDA issue that seems to have gone very public lately,” McManus said.

Saturday’s bust was law enforcement’s first takedown of a known gang location, but the chief said “We have other places we are going to hit.”

“We are onto you,” he told the gang members. “We are coming for you and we know where you are.”

More than 100 suspected members of Tren de Aragua (TdA) were a part of the group that violently stormed the border at El Paso, Texas in March.

What do you think? [Post a comment.](#)

Since then, gang has [created footholds across the country](#), allegedly taking over apartments in Colorado, seizing hotels near the Texas border in El Paso and shooting cops in New York.

Tren de Agua is known nationally for [luring women into sex trafficking](#), forcing them to sell their bodies in American cities to pay off exorbitant smuggling fees, according to a leaked law enforcement memo obtained by The Post last month.

In the Big Apple, Tren de Aragua is trying to recruit foot soldiers to force women into sex trafficking to fund gang activity.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has declared the prison gang a foreign terrorist organization.

SAPD arrests 4 Tren de Aragua members in gang bust at North Side apartment complex

SAPD says one person is a confirmed gang enforcer; 15 additional people were arrested

SAN ANTONIO – Four Tren de Aragua gang members were arrested after a gang bust by multiple local, state, and federal agencies on Saturday, according to San Antonio police chief William McManus.

Tren de Aragua is a [Venezuelan gang](#) that began in a prison in the state of Aragua and has now spread to the United States, which includes Texas, New York, Colorado, and Wisconsin.

SAPD held a press conference just after 11 a.m. Saturday after clearing nearly 300 apartment units in a complex on the 10300 block of Sahara Drive.

The apartment complex is around the same area [where KSAT reported earlier this week](#) that the fire union was telling its firefighter and paramedic members to “watch your six.”

McManus said in the press conference that complaints were made regarding human trafficking, narcotic violations, and threats to apartment employees at the apartment complex.

A total of 19 people were arrested, including one gang enforcer and four Tren de Aragua gang members, McManus said.

“We assure the community and members of the public that we are committed to their safety, and we are on top of this TDA issue that has seems to have become very public lately,” McManus said.

McManus said the apartment complex was the first place SAPD had executed a Tren de Aragua gang bust, but authorities are planning to go to other locations of Venezuelan gang-affiliated operations.

“We’re on to you, we’re coming for you, and we know where you are,” McManus said.

McManus said most of the Tren de Aragua gang members are known to wear red and can be identified by specific gang tattoos.

McManus said there is no threat to the public at this time.

SAPD, the Texas anti-gang unit, the Department of Public Safety, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and Homeland Security Investigations with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are investigating this case.

The investigation remains ongoing.

KSAT will update you as more information becomes available.