

2-26-1992

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Recommended Citation

Harding, Erika. "Rio De Janeiro, Brazil: On Cocaine Consumption." (1992). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/8570>

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Rio De Janeiro, Brazil: On Cocaine Consumption

by Erika Harding

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, February 26, 1992

According to a report published Jan. 26 by daily newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo, a cartel based in Rio de Janeiro sells approximately 500 kg. of cocaine in the city every month. The Folha cited statistics from the state anti- narcotics police. The cartel comprised of the Comando Vermelho and Tercer Comando crime syndicates produces about US\$5 million per month in sales, and employs approximately 9,000 in a highly organized, hierarchical network. Drug trafficking groups often control neighborhood associations in the city's low- income areas.

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