

Brazilian Police Bust International Drug Ring



Sao Paulo, June 17 (RHC-EFE)-- Brazil's Federal Police have dismantled a criminal organization engaged in drug trafficking and money laundering, authorities said Monday.

Some 300 officers took part in "Operation Ferrari," including enforcement actions in 15 different cities across the states of Parana, Sao Paulo, Bahia, Mato Grosso do Sul and Sergipe.

Officers attached 20 properties, froze 30 bank accounts and seized more than 100 luxury vehicles acquired with ill-gotten gains, the Federal Police said in a statement. Sixteen people have been arrested so far.

The organization amassed a fortune of 40 million reais (\$12.9 million) through the importation of coca paste – the intermediate stage in processing coca into cocaine – from Bolivia and Peru via Paraguay.

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