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### **Threats to Security in the Paraguay – Brazilian Border along the Parana River**

The paper's objective is to underline the centrality of the eastern border between Paraguay and Brazil in economic, political, social, and cultural terms. With that background as a starting point, we would present a literature review of articles and chapters on the threats to security in that region. We would be particularly interested in organized crime and its operations facilitating the smuggling of drugs, cigarettes, and other products, as well as human trafficking. Although it is difficult to pin down the exact amount of illicit merchandise moving from this area to Brazil, the local Federal Police seized 195 tons of drugs in 2023, 46% more than the previous year. In addition, other forces also made seizures, which could bring the annual total to 400 tons.

The paper would also underline the connections between organized crime and Paraguayan politics, bringing to the forefront the increasing amount of information on the participation of municipal, departmental, and national political representatives in actual criminal actions. The most salient feature of this phenomenon has been the designation of former president Horacio Cartes - suspected of covering money laundering operations -, as significantly corrupt by the US State Department.

**Keywords:** *Organized Crime, Illicit merchandize, Paraguay, Brazil*