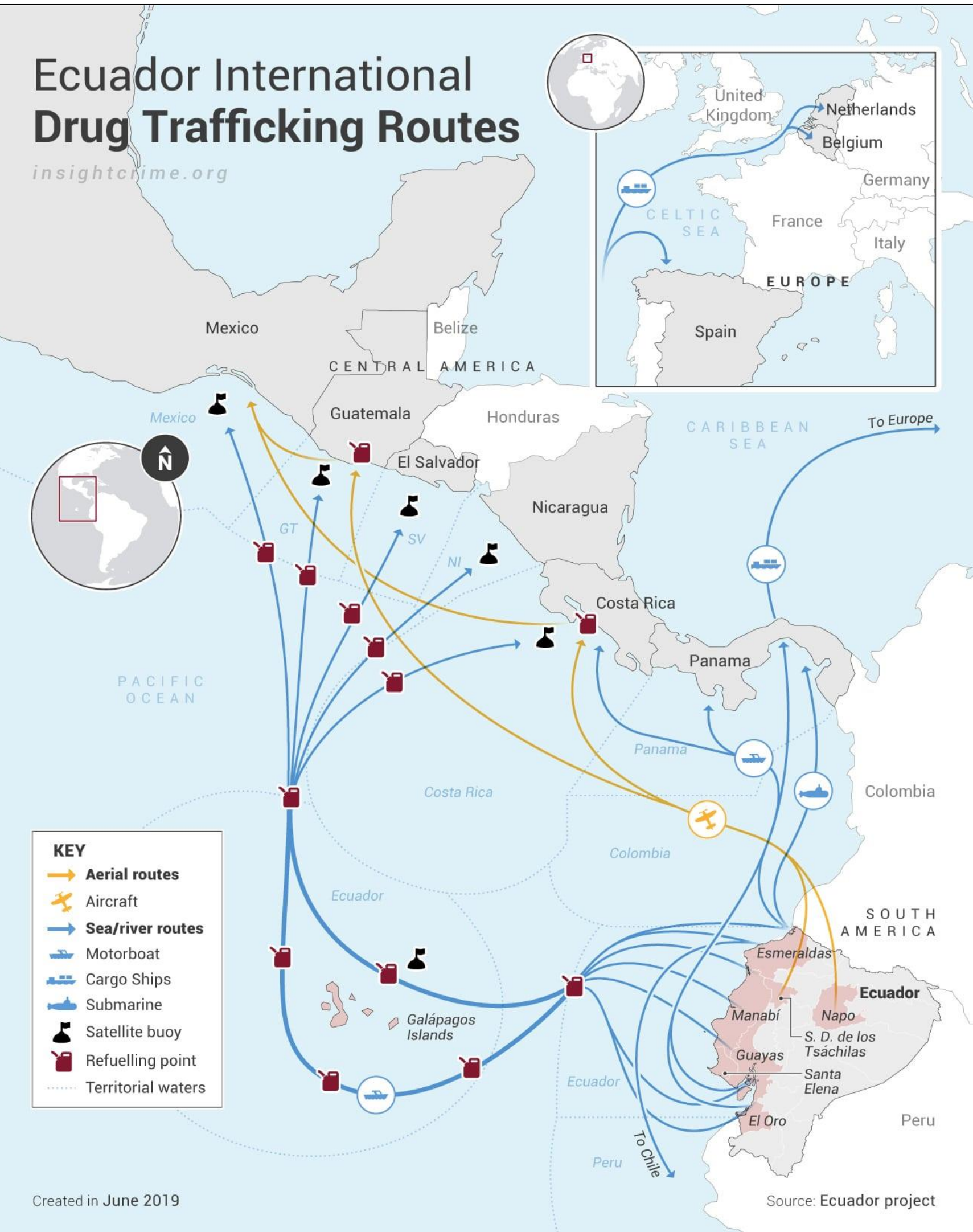


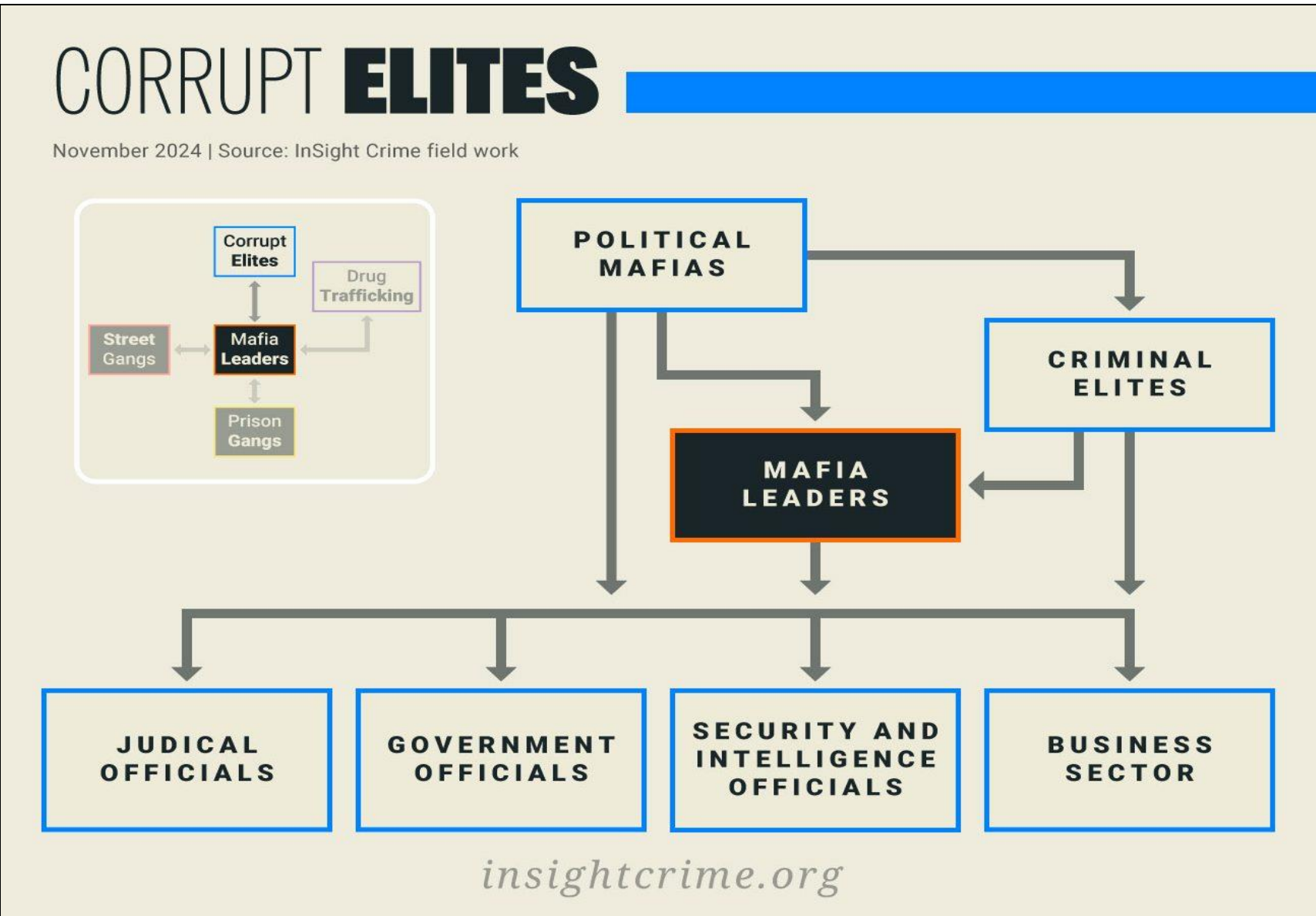
Ecuador's Corporate-Criminal-Government Hydra:

Security, Energy, and Environmental Crisis

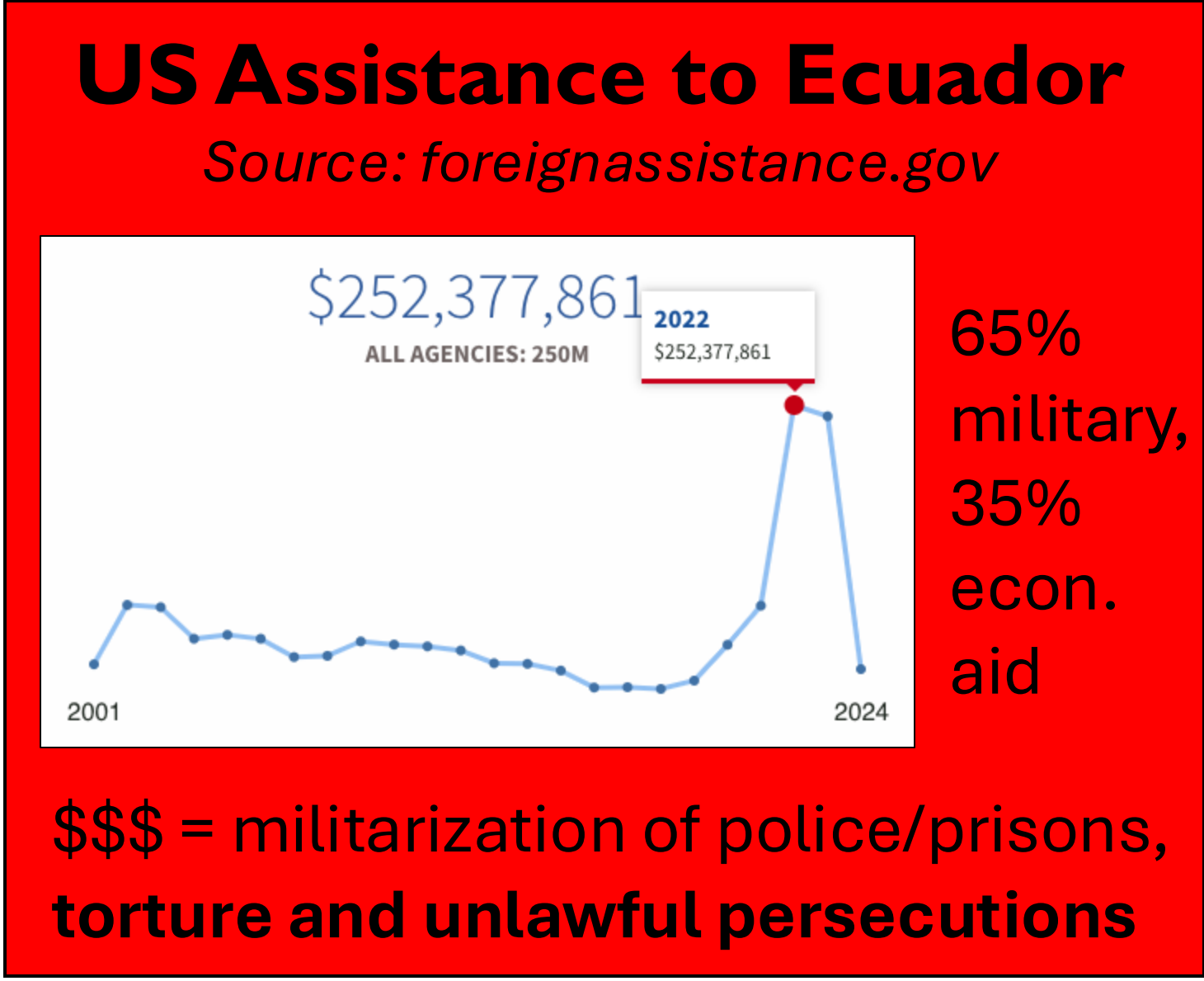
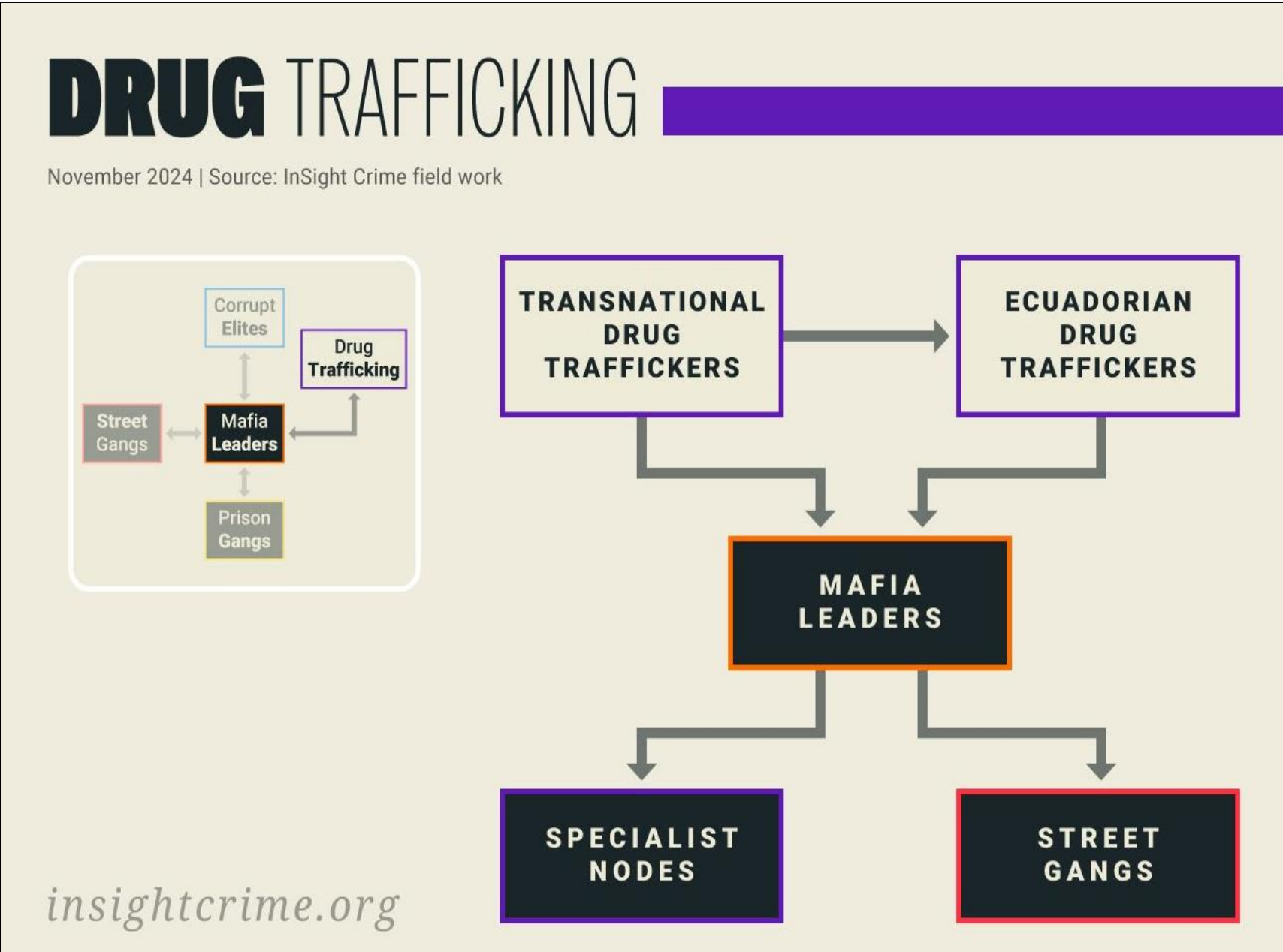
With **skyrocketing homicide rates** and **mass emigration** since 2020, increasing dependence on the IMF and **foreign debt** to finance a **politically polarized state**, and climate change challenging the **neoliberal extractivist model**, Ecuadorians face daily power outages, economic hardship, and violence from both state and criminal actors. This has become one of the deadliest countries to work in the defense of human and environmental rights—and **the US has played a role**.



Previously known as an "island of peace" in the region, Ecuador's **local gangs** have partnered with international crime organizations, **diversifying into multiple illegal ventures**.



Politicians across the spectrum are often involved in high-profile corruption cases.



Lagging **post-COVID** recovery, assassination of political candidates, **prison massacres** and **narco territorial disputes**, "social democracy" vs. right-wing politicians, **Police Populism** ("hard against crime" discourse to win popular support), **drought** and lack of infrastructure investment, **debilitated judiciary** and limited reach of state authority = **2024 Crisis**



Call to Action

- Require more **transparency** of aid allocation and police actions
- Support a **national dialogue** between civil society, citizen leaders, politicians, and international mediators
- Re-evaluate trend to impose measures to privatize state services and mineral extraction
- Hold US multinationals and IFIs to **human rights standards**
- Bring **awareness** to US Congress



Meeting the Ecuadorian Delegation in D.C. (9/24)