

Canada launches major Hells Angels sweep

by UPI

MONTREAL -- A massive international sweep of nearly all Hells Angels motorcycle gang members in or from Quebec was launched in Montreal Wednesday, targeting 156 people.

At an early morning news conference, the Surete du Quebec provincial police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said 1,200 police officers were executing 177 search warrants related to 22 murders that took place between 1992 and 2009, along with drug trafficking activities, The Gazette newspaper reported.

Those being rounded up were in Quebec, New Brunswick, the Dominican Republic and France. The bikers' clubhouses in four Quebec cities also were seized, police said.

The sweep took 200 officers three years to prepare, and the targets include just about every active member of the motorcycle gang in Quebec, including at least one woman, the newspaper said.

At the time of news conference, dozens of suspects were already lined up outside a jail in Laval, Quebec, waiting to be processed, the Gazette said.

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