



CBB 2015
Latest Celebrity Big Brother gossip >



Our new FREE Mirror iOS app is here >

Most read ★ Top Videos

News - Politics Football Sport - Celebs - TV & Film Weird News

TRENDING REFUGEE CRISIS AYLAN KURDI NEXT LABOUR LEADER UK WEATHER IPHONE 6S

Technology Money Travel Fashion Mums

M News · World news · Prisons

Inside brutal prison run by gang members that's so dangerous even the guards stay outside

1 COMMENT 09:19, 7 SEPTEMBER 2015 UPDATED 11:04, 7 SEPTEMBER 2015 BY KIRSTIE MCCRUM

Gang violence rules many streets in El Salvador, but these men are kings of their own domain - behind the prison walls at Penas Ciudad Barrios

357 Shares

Share Tweet +1 Pinterest

Enter your e-mail for our daily newsletter

Subscribe



Body of art: These men bear the notorious facial and body tattoos of gang members



SHOP NOW >

★ Recommended In News



EDUCATION
Star pupil with dreams

With the notorious facial and body tattoos of gang members, these photographs show some of the most feared criminals in Central America.

The tattoos detail their extensive crimes, which include weapon and drug dealing and murder.

But these intimidating men hold their fear over others **by running the very prison** in which El Salvador has incarcerated them.



From MS-13 by Adam Hinton ©Adam Hinton / Panos

Feared faces: These photographs show some of the most feared criminals in Central America



From MS-13 by Adam Hinton ©Adam Hinton / Panos

Storytelling: The tattoos detail their extensive crimes, which include weapon and drug dealing and murder



Rulers of rage: These intimidating men hold their fear over others by running the prison they're held in

The Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang rule Penas Ciudad Barrios, a mini-nation of 2,500 behind the walls of a prison building.

They have a bakery, workshops, hospital and rehab, but the guards stay out of the way, keeping what they can of the peace from outside the gates.

Have your say in our new comments section below

The maximum security prisoners, housed in San Salvador, were captured by Adam Hinton, a photographer from London who was given freedom in 2013 to snap the prison and Las Victorias, the area of San Salvador which their families call home.





From MS-13 by Adam Hinton ©Adam Hinton / Panos

Gang of guys: The Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang rule Penas Ciudad Barrios



From MS-13 by Adam Hinton ©Adam Hinton / Panos

Population prison: The men number a mini-nation of 2,500 behind the walls of a prison building



From MS-13 by Adam Hinton ©Adam Hinton / Panos

Self sufficient: They have a bakery, workshops, hospital and rehab

Adam explains: "The prison was built for 800 and now houses more than 2,500.

"As you enter the prison you soon realise there are no guards around. They only stay on the outside and let the gang run the joint, which they do very well given the conditions.

"For almost a year now, there has been a truce between the gangs in El Salvador, the MS and the 18 Street gang, or B18.



From MS-13 by Adam Hinton ©Adam Hinton / Panos

Climate of fear: The guards stay out of the way, keeping what they can of the peace from outside the gates



From MS-13 by Adam Hinton ©Adam Hinton / Panos

Overcrowded: The prison was built for 800 and now houses more than 2,500



From MS-13 by Adam Hinton ©Adam Hinton / Panos

Country of crime: Gang violence is a major concern in El Salvador

"As the leaders of MS are mainly incarcerated at the prison, it has become a focus of the negotiations."

Gang violence is a major concern in the country.

From January to August, **El Salvador recorded 4,246 homicides**, an average of 17.5 a day.

MS-13 by Adam Hinton is published by Paul Belford Ltd, £25. More details [on the publisher's website](#). See more of Adam's [work here](#).