

Free from organized crime.

A sixfold increase in police alerts led to removal of criminal organizations in the town of Huaraz.



Organization:

Huaraz Municipality

Location:

Huaraz, Peru

Industry segment:

City surveillance

Application:

Urban safety and security

Axis partners:

Tactical IT, Milestone

Mission

The town of Huaraz is located approximately 250 miles from Lima, Peru. It is a well known tourist area and the second-largest city in the Central Andes region of Peru in terms of population and economic activity, surpassed only by Huancayo. One of the main goals of its local government is to prevent and reduce crime and incidents of street riots, in order to return a tranquility to the city that had characterized it in years past. Under the direction of an Assistant Chief of Citizen Security, the urban video surveillance system in Huaraz has enabled quick response to various everyday disturbances such as disputes and transit incidents and issues, while also providing oversight of the most visited tourist areas.

Solution

An installation of 48 AXIS Q6045-E, 6 AXIS Q6114-E and 4 AXIS Q6000-E Network Cameras was a necessary response by the city, which has increased in population by a high percentage over the past several years and as

a result had to deal with an increase in incidents requiring intervention by Serenazgo urban security and local police units. The cameras are positioned in the city's most critical areas and along with neighborhood alert systems it has created a healthy dynamic to reduce the incidence of criminal acts. The project was implemented by integrator and Axis partner TACTICAL IT, using Milestone XProtect® software.

Result

During the first 18 months of the project's implementation, the 54 cameras installed have increased the potential for Serenazgo and police response by a factor of six times greater than it had been prior. This has considerably reduced crime given that action takes place immediately thanks to alerts at the monitoring center triggered by each incident. Police are no longer logging crimes committed by criminal organizations in the city.

“Huaraz had its difficulties in controlling crime. But now, with 54 cameras installed, we are very pleased given that the potential of our Serenazgo and police to take action has increased sixfold from what was possible prior. The results are encouraging, and the way in which integrated patrolling is working as a result of the cameras is optimal. Thankfully, it has considerably reduced crime.”

Alberto Espinoza Cerrón, Mayor of the Provincial Municipality of Huaraz.

Eliminating organized crime

Huaraz has a population of around 160,000 permanent residents along with a high influx of tourists. “The subject of citizen security, before we had our cameras installed, was very complicated,” says Alberto Espinoza Cerrón, Mayor of the Provincial Municipality of Huaraz.

With the implementation of this urban video surveillance project using Axis cameras, the city has been able to cover key areas with a focus on organized crime. Some of the benefits gained are a result of using AXIS Q6045-E Network Cameras that provide a high level of precision delivering wide-area coverage and the ability to enlarge images with no loss in detail quality.

As a graphic example of these advantages, the town notes a timely fact: a taxi driver has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for attempting to abduct a young woman. The incident was recorded on camera and Serenazgo and police units were sent to the scene, intervening to prevent the crime. Later, the images were brought before the court as evidence, demonstrating the efficiency of the system from a dual perspective: first, as a means of alert in order to respond quickly and detain the taxi driver, and then as legal proof to convict him.

“Criminal organizations are just that: organizations,” explains Cerrón. “Word has spread that our citizen security system is very precise and efficient, and as a result they no longer come to the city to commit crime; there is no organized crime. There are isolated incidents, and we are also attentive to that. But despite great results we know that we must continue working on this issue because we are a tourist city, and what tourists like most besides comfort is security, and in the past tourist robberies were a frequent occurrence in Huaraz.”

Intelligence and prevention

In order to provide further needed coverage, AXIS Q6000-E with 360-degree viewing were also installed. The cameras also use Axis [Zipstream](#) technology, which particularly stands out in the monitoring center with its ability to render forensic-level details and maintain high resolution and frame rate, while using less storage space and thus reducing bandwidth requirements.

The positive impact of the new system on effective police action is significant. Supervisor of the Huaraz Public Relations & Public Services Department, John Carlos Huaranga, says, “The cameras allow us to stand true to the ‘Three P’s’ of our motto ‘Prevent, Provide and Protect.’ Previously we had no video equipment to assist us, but since installing the Axis cameras we have experienced a considerable reduction in the crime rate, fewer neighborhood incidents and less excess alcohol consumption, for example.”

Jorge Alvarado, manager of project integrator TACTICAL IT emphasizes that, “The installation of this system has given the city and people of Huaraz an important resource for strengthening citizen security on all levels. They benefit from the advantages of an entire solution installed: a modern technology platform composed of 54 video surveillance positions, a fiber optic network covering over 18 miles, a digital radio communications system with GPS, IP telephony and a data center. And, we constructed a three-story building to serve as our monitoring center.”



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