



Uncovering the Impact of Organized Crime on Society

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ABSTRACT

The issue of organized crime has spread over the world and now affects every nation engaged in the supply and demand chain. External powers, particularly those who provide them money in exchange for drug trafficking, assist Indian terrorist organizations. This is particularly frequent in the northeastern states and Kashmir; in reality, the region has a parallel government. Since Mumbai is India's financial center and has the largest port, it is a prime target for many gangs engaged in this kind of business. Since fake identity cards are difficult to detect, most smuggling operations take place by sea, and many terrorist attacks have occurred in India through these channels in the past. Lack of coordination, money, and manpower, together with a shortage of qualified personnel at police stations, has rendered the organizations more capable of carrying out these operations than the Indian government, which lacks agencies specifically designed to address this problem. Arguments on how best to combat organized crime between the federal and state governments prolong the time it takes to reach a consensus. Nonetheless, in order to combat this threat, we must fortify our legal framework and enact new legislation.

Key words: Organized Crime, Society

Introduction

A structured group of three, four, or more people who have been together for a while and have the intention of committing a major crime, either directly or indirectly using money or other materials, is considered to be engaged in organized crime. There are two primary categories into which organized crime falls: Conventional The second type of organized crime is known as non-traditional organized crime, and it includes transnational crimes like human trafficking, cybercrime, money laundering, arms smuggling, pumping fake Indian currency, hacking, drug smuggling, and kidnapping. Traditional organized crime includes things like illicit liquor, gambling, betting, blackmailing, trade extortion, sand mafia, contract killing, mining mafia, and many more.

Terrorism and organized crime are closely related; terrorists often turn to organized crime to secure their financial future. Terrorists engage in extortion, drug trafficking, and money laundering, among other crimes, to make money. Terrorist organizations and organized crime often operate inside the same network; they both thrive in environments with lax law enforcement, open borders, limited government oversight, and similar communication technologies. Terrorist organizations may get weapons and explosives from organized criminal gangs in exchange for chemicals and gems. This network of smuggling established by organized crime is used by terrorist groups to transport agents across the globe. In exchange for cover, terrorist groups controlling the ground tax drug traffickers get help from criminal gangs with money laundering.

Terrorist organizations and organized crime often target weak checks and balances and inefficient government. They have established a mutual link, although not all planned crimes or terrorist activities are related to one another. Terrorism and organized crime collaborate extensively in third-world nations, but in first-world countries, there is little to no interaction between the two.

The primary distinction between organized crime and terrorism is that the former seeks to establish a parallel government that coexists with the current one, while the latter seeks to topple the current government and seize power. Organized crime prefers non-violent tactics of taking control of the government, while terrorism employs violence to achieve this goal. The primary distinction between organized crime and terrorism is that the latter is primarily focused on economic gains, while the former is primarily political and sometimes involves the exploitation of ethnic, national, and religious passions for its own ends. Money laundering and black money are components of organized crime. There is a relationship between organized crime and terrorist organizations in North East India's Kashmir area.

Dawood Ibrahim is said to have been behind the Bombay Blast, an instance of an organized criminal gang. Additionally, there is a link between terrorist organizations and the drug trafficking operations that these organizations carry out, as well as between terrorism and black money and money laundering. Numerous laws have been established, such as the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which establishes a legal framework to combat organized crime and terrorist activity in India, both of which pose threats to the country's security and economy.

Hidden cost to society

Almost all significant international crimes with a profit motive that involve many countries are classified as transnational organized crime. Transnational organized crime encompasses a wide range of operations, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, trafficking of migrants, money laundering, trafficking in guns, counterfeit products, biodiversity and cultural assets, and even certain forms of cybercrime. It jeopardizes international peace and security, encourages violations of human rights, and impedes the development of global societies' civil, political, social, and cultural spheres. Large quantities of money are at stake, which has the potential to undermine reputable economies and directly affect government via things like election "buying" and corruption.¹

Numerous lives are lost due to organized crime every year. This includes gun-related fatalities, drug-related health issues and violence, and the dubious tactics and goals of people traffickers and migrant smugglers. The actions of organized criminal organizations have an annual impact on millions of victims.

Different forms of transnational organized crime

Global organized crime is a dynamic enterprise that constantly evolves, taking advantage of new opportunities to commit crimes. Put simply, it's an illegal industry that has no bounds and operates outside of social, linguistic, cultural, and geographic limits.

Drug trafficking, with an estimated yearly worth of \$320 billion, is the most profitable industry for criminals.² The UNODC estimated the approximate yearly value of the world's opiate and cocaine markets alone in 2009 to be \$68 billion and \$85 billion, respectively.³

Men, women, and children are exploited as commodities in the worldwide crime of human trafficking, which involves the exploitation of them for labor or sexual purposes. Although exact numbers vary, a 2005 assessment from the ILO put the number of victims of human trafficking at around 2.4 million, with yearly revenues estimated to be around \$32 billion.⁴ However, recent studies on general trends in forced labor indicate that the problem's reach is far larger.⁵ The trafficking of primarily women and children for sexual assault alone generates \$3 billion in revenue yearly in Europe, with 140,000 victims at any one moment and 70,000 victims annually.⁶

Migration smuggling is a well-run industry that transports individuals around the world using networks, organizations, and routes used by criminals. Organized criminal organizations may give migrants a "smuggling package," in which the care that they get during the way is a direct reflection of the money they pay their smugglers. Their rights are frequently violated as they are being smuggled; they may be beaten, sexually assaulted, plundered, held for ransom, or, in extreme circumstances, abandoned to perish when the danger to their smugglers becomes too great.⁷ Many traffickers don't seem to care whether migrants choke inside a container, drown in the sea, or pass away from thirst in a desert. This transaction is worth billions of dollars annually. The unlawful trafficking of 3 million migrants from Latin America to North America brought in over \$6.6 billion in 2009. In contrast, 55,000 migrants from Africa were smuggled into Europe for a total of \$150 million the year before.⁸

Handguns and assault weapons end up in the hands of criminals and gangs thanks to the \$170 million to \$320 million yearly revenue generated by the illicit firearms trade. Although it is difficult to tally the victims of these illegal weapons, there is a clear association between the proportion of firearm-related killings and homicide rates in certain locations (like the Americas).⁹

Raw commodities like diamonds as well as rare metals are smuggled in as part of the trafficking of natural resources (typically from war zones). Every year, South-East Asian wood trafficking brings approximately \$3.5 billion in money.¹⁰ This particular illegal activity not only finances criminal organizations but also plays a major role in deforestation, climate change, and rural poverty.

Organized crime organizations also profit handsomely from the illicit wildlife trade, when poachers primarily target animals' skins & body parts for shipment to outside markets. The illegal trade in tiger parts, rhino horn, and elephant ivory from Africa & South-East Asia to Asia brings in \$75 million annually and jeopardizes the survival of some species.¹¹ In order to fulfill the demand from collectors or unsuspecting buyers, organized criminal

¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Estimating Illicit Financial Flows Resulting from Drug Trafficking and Other Transnational Organized Crimes: Research Report* (Vienna, October 2011). Available from www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Illicit_financial_flows_2011_web.pdf.

² Based on 2015 figures (World Drug Report 2021 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.10)). Available from www.unodc.org/wdr/World_Drug_Report_2021.

³ Based on 2021 estimates from the International Labour Organization (ILO). More recent and precise estimates by ILO on overall forced labour trends however would lead us to think that the scope of the problem is much bigger.

⁴ International Labour Office, *A Global Alliance against Forced Labour: Global Report under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work* (Geneva, ILO, 2005).

⁵ International Labour Organization, *Global Estimate of Forced Labour 2012: Results and Methodology* (Geneva, ILO, 2021).

⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Trafficking in persons to Europe for sexual exploitation", June 2010. Available from www.unodc.org/documents/publications/TiP_Europe_EN_LORES.pdf.

⁷ The Globalization of Crime: A Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.IV.6.2010). Available from www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tocta/TOCTA_Report_2010_low_res.pdf.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *2021 Global Study on Homicide: Trends, Contexts, Data* (2021). Available from www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Homicide/web.pdf.

¹⁰ The Globalization of Crime: A Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment. (2020)

¹¹ *Ibid.*

organizations also trade in live and rare plants and animals that pose a danger to their own survival. Over 100 million tons of fish, 1.5 million live birds, and 440,000 tons of medicinal plants are illegally moved each year by traffickers, according to the WWF.¹²

The selling of fake medications is a concerning industry as it exposes customers to a possibly fatal deal. Capitalizing on the expanding legal pharmaceutical trade from Asia to other developing countries, criminals smuggle counterfeit medications worth \$1.6 billion from Asia, mostly to South-East Asia and Africa. Nevertheless, rather of providing a cure, they may create medication resistance or even death in cases of fatal infectious illnesses like TB and malaria. Apart from customary trafficking techniques, lawbreakers persist in establishing a profitable virtual marketplace for counterfeit pharmaceuticals, aimed at both developed and developing nations, potentially posing health risks to the public.

Identity theft is one of the most lucrative forms of cybercrime, with an annual revenue of around \$1 billion for offenders.¹³ Criminals are using the Internet more and more to get payment card credentials fraudulently, access bank accounts, and steal personal information.

Threats of organized crime to society

Although international organized crime poses a danger on a global scale, its impacts are perceived locally. When organized crime spreads, it has the potential to topple whole nations and regions, undercutting aid for development in such places. Corruption, extortion, violence, racketeering, and a host of other more complex crimes at the local level may all rise as a result of organized crime organizations collaborating with local criminals. Violent gangs have the power to endanger people's lives by transforming inner cities into hazardous places.

Both citizens in industrialized and developing nations are impacted by organized crime. Finances are laundered via banking networks. Identity theft affects individuals; 1.5 million victims are discovered annually.¹⁴ Criminal organizations sell women for sexual exploitation and minors for forced begging, burglaries, and pick-pocketing in many wealthy nations. Automobile theft is a well-organized industry as well; automobiles are stolen on demand and exported. In addition to defrauding the public, fraudulent food and medical goods may endanger their lives and health when they are sold legally. The trade in fake goods is another factor that costs nations money in taxes. When sales of genuine items are replaced by illegally made goods, which negatively affects employer income, this may also have an effect on legitimate businesses.

When crimes like human trafficking, abduction, and extortion are taken into account, organized crime contributes to the rise in public expenditure for security and law enforcement while also undermining the fundamental human rights norms that many nations strive to uphold. Additionally, it may encourage local crime, which raises insurance rates and contributes to the overall level of crime and insecurity in society.

Money laundering

Most crimes result in monetary gains, which put offenders at risk. Cash is difficult to conceal, which raises the risk of exposure, theft by competing thieves, and police confiscation. Cash is more susceptible to detection and law enforcement action when it enters the legal economy. Therefore, thieves take action to keep cash from raising red flags. They could attempt to introduce it into the legal economy by using companies with significant cash turnover, relocate it overseas, or use it to purchase other assets. The banking system is said to have been used to launder over 70% of illegal proceeds, making it a crucial component of international organized crime. However, less than 1% of the money that has been laundered is found and taken into custody.¹⁵

Conclusion

Partnerships at all levels are necessary to combat a global phenomenon like transnational organized crime. There is a role for governments, corporations, international organizations, civil society, and individuals worldwide. Several elements are crucial in combating organized crime, such as:

Coordination: Finding, looking into, and punishing the individuals and organizations responsible for these crimes will need coordinated international effort.

Education and awareness-building: The general public has to be made more aware of organized crime's effects on daily life. Inform officials and decision makers of your concerns so that they will prioritize this really global problem among the public's top concerns. Additionally, it is crucial for consumers to be informed about what they are buying, act morally, and avoid supporting organized crime.

Technology and intelligence: Strong criminal networks often outwit criminal justice systems and traditional law enforcement techniques. With the help of increasingly specialized law enforcement units outfitted with cutting edge technology, better intelligence techniques must be established.

Aid: in order to increase their ability to fend against these challenges, emerging nations need aid. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which has been ratified by 170 parties, is a crucial instrument that may assist with this since it offers a global legal framework to aid

¹² Available at http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/species/problems/illegal_trade/

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Estimating Illicit Financial Flows Resulting from Drug Trafficking. (2020)

¹⁵ Available at http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XVIII-2&chapter=18&lang=en.

in the identification, deterrence, and dismantling of organized criminal networks. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime will convene for its sixth session in Vienna in October 2012.

Governments from all around the globe get together for this biannual series of meetings to evaluate and promote the Convention's implementation and guarantee better implementation in addressing this global problem. Practically speaking, UNODC provides training and technical support for tracking the money trail to help States become better equipped to detect and stop money laundering. These steps may aid in severing the revenue streams from crime.

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