

The challenges posed to society and good governance by criminal groups, for example pirates, terrorists and organized crime (mafia)

The Question of: The challenges posed to society and good governance by criminal groups, for example pirates, terrorists and organized crime (mafia)

Forum: The Economic and Social Council

Position: President of the Economic and Social Council

Student Officer: Friederike Künne

Contact: ecosoc@munoh.de

Description of the Problem

Basically all activities of criminal groups fall under the category of organized crime. The biggest threat criminal groups pose to society and good governance goes out to developing countries with weak rule of law and crisis regions with fractious violence or extreme poverty. In Iraq and Syria terrorists try to overthrow the ruling government and establish an Islamic state. Piracy in north-east and west-Africa damages the world's economy when valuable trading goods are stolen. In many countries, such as Italy, Mexico, Japan or the USA, the Mafia oppresses society with violent actions and further fuels the world drug problem by drug trafficking. Human trafficking is in many east-African countries a quick way to get money but is highly inhuman and illegal. These are just few examples for tragedies that happen every day. The crucial point to do something against criminal groups is to aid governmental and security forces in order to work against the causes of these crimes. Thus development aid is inevitable for this issue as especially developing countries suffer from human trafficking, corrupt governments and state terrorism.

Definition of Key Terms

Organized Crime

This term defines an international, national or local group of people which *organizes* itself to act out illegal activities. These groups often have monetary, political or religious motives. The following crimes can be categorized as organized crime:

- Terrorism
- Drug-, Human-, Organ-, Migrant-, Arms trafficking and smuggling (also black marked trading)
- Cybercrime: cyber warfare, copyright infringement, viruses
- Mafia activities: murder, assault, extortion
- Money related crimes: corruption, money laundry, tax evasion
- Street gang crime
- White collar crimes
- Blue collar crimes
- Piracy
- War crimes

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Terrorism

There is no clear definition for terrorism but terrorist groups have political, religious or ideological motivations for their actions. By violently destabilising state security terrorists spread terror and fear. Terrorist attacks often harm civilians or neutral parties who cannot protect themselves. Terrorists can be right-wing or left-wing parties, nationalists and even governments. Current examples of Islamic terrorist groups are the Hamas in Israel and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria or Al Qaeda. When governments spread fear as part of their foreign policy it is called regime or state terrorism which can be seen in North Korea.

Piracy

Modern Pirates use new technologies such as GPS and guns to enter and rob big container vessels. Piracy often occurs in politically weak areas, around developing countries where there are large trading routes and in sea gates for example in Somalia, the Gulf of Aden, the Strait of Malacca or the Niger Delta and even in the Amazon River. Pirates are often referred to as criminal organizations but most of them are independent criminal groups.

Mafia

Mafias often are large national organized groups which on the one hand act as personal protection firms by violently intimidating other parties and on the other hand commit organized crimes such as money laundry, drug trafficking, fraud etc. Mafiosi are bound by a code of honour which makes it hard for the police to investigate and find evidence against mafias.

Organizations Involved

UNODC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was founded in 1997 and is a fusion between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. The UNODC has several offices all around the world and helps countries to fight illicit drug trade, organized crime. It also does research for the better understanding of drug related crimes.

INTERPOL

INTERPOL is a large international police organization of 190 members which empowers police to be better equipped and effective against every kind of crime.

Treaties and Actions Taken

UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)

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The Millennium Declaration

In the Millennium Declaration Member States draw more attention to organized crime and commit to implement stricter measures against international terrorist and the world drug problem.

Questions for the Delegates

Is your country suffering from organized crime, if yes, what kind of criminal group is it?

Has your country signed the CATOC?

Is your country giving development aid?

What can be done against criminal groups on an international basis?

Useful Links and Sources

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organized_crime

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transnational_organized_crime

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/it/organized-crime/index.html>

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/treaties/CTOC/>

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html?ref=menutop

www.monitor.co.ug/Magazines/PeoplePower/Human-trafficking--The-modern-form-of-slavery--/689844/1974562/-/rj8l5s/-/index.html

<http://www.interpol.int/About-INTERPOL/Overview>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mafia>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piracy>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism#Motivation_of_terrorists

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/nsc/transnational-crime/threat>

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/piracy/index.html?ref=menuside>

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/index.html>

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