

Given the preceding chapters of this Future of Crime series, you would be forgiven to think that crime, in general, is headed for extinction. While this is true in the long run, the short-term reality is that crime, especially of the organized variety, will benefit and prosper from a range of negative trends between to

There are quite a number of issues that ought to be taken into account. For instance, the reader must understand what organized crime refers to and the current situation on the same. Organized crime may be defined as a conspiratorial entity where criminals engage in illicit operations so as to generate income. The main activities in organized crime involve illegal gambling, frauds on credit cards, insurance, smuggling, ransom kidnapping, prostitution, gun running, drug trafficking, money laundering, and vehicle theft. Organized crime also involves the coming together of individuals with the potential of committing grave offenses on a long term basis. In addition, such activities would involve aspects of planning, coordination, and control where the main motivation would not necessarily be financial gain. Evidently, mafia activities as well as corporate crimes have been reported in different parts even in third world nations. Increased growth of organized crime in other regions derives from weak and collapsing governments, ethnic tension, wars, widening poverty and economic instability, faulty privatizations, and incidences of high level corruption. Wealthier nations have the highest rate of consumption of illicit drugs as well as trafficking of poor people. In the same vein, motor vehicles and firearms are ferried from developing nations to poorer ones but then the people do not manage to buy such commodities at the market price. There will be more use of new technologies by groups involved in organized crime as a way to boost their operations. Moreover, advancement of communications technology would assist in providing new targets as well as improved security for perpetrators of organized crime. In its findings it discovered that there are approximately groups engaged in organized crime in the EU. Introduction This paper presents an analysis of the future for organized crime. It means in assessing the current situation the researcher will make projections on what would be the situation in the future. The study will also be presenting ongoing debates on matters related to organized crime. The following encompass the objectives of the paper: To understand organized crime 2. To assess the current situation on organized crime 3. To evaluate the policies and on-going debates on how to prevent organized crime both now and in the future 4. To present statistical analysis and projections on organized crime 1. In addition, the main activities in organized crime involve illegal gambling, frauds on credit cards, insurance, smuggling, ransom kidnapping, prostitution, gun running, drug trafficking, money laundering, and vehicle theft just to mention but a few Wright, For instance, in the case of successful groups in organized crime there are other individuals such as specialists, subordinates as well as additional transient members including a wide network of associates SOCA, In other words, most groups engaged in organized crime serve as loose networks involving criminals whose cooperation last within the period of the criminal operation. Therefore, such individuals play diverse roles in relation to their skills as well as expertise SOCA, The European legislative body resolved to address the dangers posed by organized crime. Therefore, this special committee would have a mandate for one year but renewable for another six months. The main roles were to assess and analyses the criminal activities and develop a mitigation plan that would be applicable at EU level CRIM, It was also noted that organized crime and all its related activities posed serious dangers to citizens across Europe hence the need for a special committee. Moreover, CRIM has deliberated on inviting different institutions and other EU organizations as well as investigators and judicial authorities in order to devise a plan that would assist in combating organized crime in the region CRIM, Assessment of Organized Crime at Present Research indicates that inasmuch as organized crime started in the period s among developed nations, the same has expanded to other parts of the world. Evidently, mafia activities as well as corporate crimes have been reported in different parts even in third world nations Pathy, However, due to scarcity of resources in combating the problem the effects of Organized criminal activities continue to be intense. On the other hand, increased growth of organized crime in other regions derives from weak and collapsing governments, ethnic tension, wars, widening poverty and economic instability, faulty privatizations, and incidences of high level

corruption Pathy, Notably, wealthier nations have the highest rate of consumption of illicit drugs as well as trafficking of poor people. In the same vein, motor vehicles and firearms are ferried from developing nations to poorer ones but then the people do not manage to buy such commodities at the market price Pathy, Indeed, looking at the global scope of organized crime today, for instance, corruption and terrorism there emerges the need for enhanced international governance. The greatest question would be: In addition, 85, victims succumbed to impersonation fraud while 24, suffered ID takeover Tomison, In terms of risks and responses it is held that there are continuing improvements towards protecting information for protocols, and enhancing authentication techniques for passwords. However, in the future research indicates that there will be increased trafficking in terms of child pornography, for instance, movie files or actual images using stronger broadband services. Other activities include use of search engines so as to locate children in order to abuse them sexually online Tomison, There is likelihood that perpetrators of organized crime would aim to carry out their operations within the changing technological, social as well as financial environment. It is true that some of the fundamental aspects of organized crime may not undergo a lot of changes but their engagement in various criminal operations will turn out to be more essential. In the same vein, illicit drugs may in the future be the actual criminal activity in organized crime. All the same, there will emerge new sectors and engagements that would appeal more or even be lucrative in organized crime Australian Crime Commission, Another point worth noting is that there will be more use of new technologies by groups involved in organized crime as a way to boost their operations. In this regard, they will be in a position to undertake their operations or activities at a distance or even internationally Australian Crime Commission, This will require a sound regulatory mechanism in the financial sector so as to prevent organized crime Australian Crime Commission, Further studies indicate there will be more possibility to hide real identity of crime groups. However, there are stronger legal mechanisms already in place to monitor or prevent the misuse and such malicious alterations of identity Australian Crime Commission, It is also held that cannabis will remain one of the largest smuggled drugs, for instance, in Australia. The same will be the case with cocaine and heroin which also enjoy a wide market Australian Crime Commission, In the case of money laundering it is held that there will be stiffer laws making it difficult for organized crime groups. Therefore, the enactment of other anti-fraud mechanisms in both private and public sectors will minimize the future occurrence of financial offenses. In the same context, use of advanced technologies will assist to reduce fraudulent activities Australian Crime Commission, According to research organized crime has shifted to online. For instance, a greater part of the threats derive from online activities. The evaluations conducted by EUROPOL reveal the activities to include smuggling of drugs, violation of intellectual property rights, fraud, firearms, trading of counterfeit goods, and destruction of the environment among others Edwards, The trading involved in such activities takes place via the internet. EUROPOL did link organized crime with terrorism in the sense that terrorist groups converge to undertake common crime so as to accumulate more funds. The fundamental point to note is that terrorists also engage in organized crime in different ways Edwards, The other point is that activities of this kind threaten public safety as well as the economy. In line with the arguments above other research demonstrates that computer related organized crimes have been playing a critical role internationally. In other words computerized processes have boosted the execution of organized crime internationally. For instance, it has become much easier to commit crimes such as money laundering as well as fraud Adamoli, In the same context, electronic networks have created more opportunities towards flow of capital without requiring using traditional entities to play the intermediary role. Furthermore, illicit transfer of funds can be undertaken in different nations where there lacks sound laws against money laundering Adamoli, It is true that the world is accumulating more wealth due to increased trade and investment, but then the growing rate of organized crime emerges as a big threat to the world at large. Other scholars have held the opinion that there is a promising future for activities related to organized crime especially in America. The other point is that inasmuch as crime organizations have been changing their methods, the possibility for other kinds of illegal activities will still be executed in future McCarry, The other observation is that inasmuch as there are laws prohibiting crimes such as extortion or racketeering there will still emerge other complex criminal activities in form of computer, bank or tax fraud. This will be for the reason that such crimes may be achieved through technology hence making it difficult for

criminal groups to be apprehended or prosecuted McCarry, Brief Statistical Analysis on Organized Crime This section will provide available quantitative research on organized crime. In this regard, the researcher will make inferences based on such data to predict possible outcome in the future, for instance, in the period Figure 2 below illustrates the trend for organized crime for the year Trend of Organized Crime Source: Project America, Figure 2: Violations in Organized Crime Source: Evaluation of Policies and Control Mechanisms towards Organized Crimes In Article 5 of the convention it invites states to have an active legislation as well as other mechanisms so as to criminalize any involvement in organized criminal activities. Article 6 goes ahead to indicate the need for the criminalization of activities related to laundering United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Therefore, it also invites states to have legislative policies that would ensure such criminal activities are responded to with necessary measures. In Article 7 the Convention lays emphasis on the need to develop measures towards combating money laundering. Therefore, each state should device comprehensive preventive or regulatory strategies that would help detect money laundering activities United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Further, pursuant to article 8 the convention also notes on the need to criminalize activities related to corruption. Therefore, every state must through its legislative body enact laws and policies that would prevent such criminal activities United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, It is not possible to say it will be no more or it will be the only thing to take caution on. This is because as much as organized crime groups are changing their tactics so are governments improving their security measures to ensure such criminals do not get away easily. Therefore, the reader will concur that organized crime will be one of the issues that will be treated as a matter of security concern in the future. In any case there is no evidence or rational formula that would be used to show organized crime will end in the future. Actually, the best position to hold is that in future there will be more preventive measures in combating organized crime. However, it would not be convincing to imagine that organized crime groups will come to an end in the future. Therefore, this is going to be a reality that governments will have to keep fighting in order to combat such criminal activities from occurring. In the study, it was seen that there are those crimes that are more pronounced compared to others such as money laundering, fraud, and drug trafficking. It is arguably so that the reasons why organized criminal groups would opt for these activities are because they are highly lucrative. By this it means they can generate money quickly despite the risk involved. So, the researcher opines that the same activities will be more pronounced in the future because individuals will want to make fortune out of them. Thus, there should be more controls towards this end because such will constitute major crimes in the future. Organized Crime around the World.

Chapter 2 : Future of organized crime: Future of crime P5 | Quantumrun

Technology and the future of serious and organized crime Serious and organized crime affects more UK citizens, more often, than any other national security threat. This is the latest from the National Crime Agency (NCA) in their report launched this week: National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organized Crime

Gangs and The Future The gang problem is rooted in the conditions of lower-class life, particularly poverty. It tends to be particularly intense in certain areas where social pathologies - delinquency, mental illness, public assistance, and poverty - are concentrated. These conditions are all getting worse, despite programs aimed at improving them. Roberg , et al. Neighborhoods experiencing gang entrenchment have, in my mind, the bleakest future. Neighborhoods with an emerging gang situation, on the other hand, may be able to do something constructive to reduce gang activity. Gang free communities can benefit from prevention programs and from closely scrutinizing families and individuals who are arriving from other communities. Several gang researchers have addressed the issue of gangs in the future. Among them are Johnson, Webster, and Connors. Prosecutors did not express optimism about gangs in the future. In their work, they have learned a great deal about gangs, gang members, and the circumstances that have produced them. The gang members who come to their attention are often far beyond the reach of social interventions designed to deter youths from involvement in gang or drug lifestyles. Although they stated that prosecuting gangs would not completely solve the gang problem, they intend to pursue prosecutions as vigorously as possible. But as indicated by their comments on the survey questionnaire and in interviews, gang prosecutors consistently advocated early intervention with children and youths and more effective services to strengthen families as the best way to prevent gang crime and violence. In fact, the opposite appears likely. Worsening social and economic conditions, federal roll backs of hard-won civil rights legislation and a potential increase in racism, and an expanding minority youth population, all portend a deleterious gang situation. Barring any major political and economic changes Among the sources of his pessimism are "a misplaced emphasis on networking and information sharing among enforcement agencies, the continuing contribution of urban decay to gang formation, and the diffusion of gang culture across the nation. Out of Control and Getting Worse, R. Maginnis attributes his pessimistic outlook to many of the factors discussed previously in Into the Abyss. His analysis of the juvenile gang problem concludes stating that [Y]outh crime, violence, and gang involvement are likely to increase sharply when the large population of elementary-age children reaches adolescence Further efforts are needed to break the cycle involved in gang participation. Currently and historically, young males commit far more crimes than other age groups. The combination of more chronic juvenile delinquents and an increase in violent juvenile offenders is complemented by an unprecedented increase in youth living with little or no adult supervision. Gangs are spreading across the country and are not just limited to major cities. The decline of the nuclear family has prompted many children to join gangs to find purpose, security, and self-esteem. The gang culture gives them a sense of belonging and remakes their value system. Partying, fighting, and vicious gang loyalty become their main values and replace virtues that favor family life. Maginnis , Earlier in Into the Abyss the potential impact of gang members paroled or released from prison was explored. Research has shown that their impact is basically negative - leading to more, not less, gang activity. Sharing what I knew about gang members returning from prison, I asked a British intelligence officer if he had any concerns about this. He said "I think that is likely to happen in England. He believes their lack of interest in learning English will make integration and assimilation even more difficult and difficulties surrounding integration lead to other problems. A current problem, related to immigration and birth rates, and one which may grow in the future, has to do with the increasing number of Hispanics living in the United States and the language barrier which sometimes divides them from other Americans. In addition, the increasing number of Hispanics and African-Americans in the American population may excite white supremacist groups ideological hate gangs to further action. Skinheads will continue to be aligned with long-established white supremacist groups. The Skinhead gangs will remain among the most violent groups of white gangs and, although small in numbers, their potential for violence will remain significant. They will continue to become members of organized white-supremacist groups and a

leading promoter of hate crimes. Leet , , p. They always have, either by design or by default. The number of gang members can be reduced as can the amount and seriousness of crime they commit. In order to do this we need to do more than we are already doing. The Solutions portion of Into the Abyss identifies some of the things which could be done.

Chapter 3 : Mafia Decline and Future of Organized Crime

The FBI is dedicated to eliminating transnational organized crime groups that pose the greatest threat to the national and economic security of the United States.

Organized Crime, Experts Warn: Organizations like the Wah Ching, United Bamboo and Wo families now reach out of their traditional bases, officials say. They have begun to victimize the world with drugs, guns and fraud. They smuggle military weapons out of China, Vietnam and the former Soviet Union, with the help of the Russian mafia. They also provide muscle for Triads. They have begun to victimize the world at large with drugs, guns and fraud. Vancouver, Canada, may be the future for many North American cities, warns Thomas Ritchie, the top organized crime investigator in British Columbia. Colombian drug cartels made themselves easier targets because of their centralization and focus on a single commodity. But Triad members dabble in many crimes, and think nothing of flitting from Thailand to Vancouver and on to Ohio or New York on a single caper. Their organization is unclear. Although there has been testimony that drug dealers in this country turned to a godfather in Macao for approval of a heroin deal, Myers said the Triads often act more as a loose network of independent contractors who team up for specific crimes--in effect, a criminal version of the Elks Club. Michael Yamaguchi in San Francisco. Chinese syndicates control gambling in parts of Asia, the Dominican Republic, and in many U. The bureau has increasingly up-to-date information exchanges with Europe and Latin America, he said. But they are only beginning to impress their Asian counterparts with the necessity for quick, timely reports on weapons. Oakland-based ATF agent James Newberry said that despite the organization and power of the Triads, law enforcement has made some inroads. To overcome the closed gang culture, investigators discovered young criminals could often be shamed into cooperating by bringing in a father or other relative to urge them to act with honor. More and more Asian officers have joined police forces and can work freely in communities once suspicious of outsiders, said Newberry. But Yamaguchi said more is needed, especially as the United States looks more and more to the Pacific Rim as a trading partner. Several Triad suspects have fled into China, which has no mutual assistance treaty with the United States, he said. In many countries, such as Thailand, high-level corruption makes cooperation spotty at best. But at least early action is possible because the threat is recognized, Yamaguchi said.

Chapter 4 : Working Together to Combat Organized Crime

Congress in future legislation impacting organized crime. The cases and examples discussed in this report are not intended to set definitional boundaries for organized crime.

Investigators later determined, however, that the aircraft had been destroyed after its illicit cargo, estimated at between seven and 11 tons of cocaine had been offloaded. In June , in an action directly related to the above-mentioned aircraft, three individuals were arrested and charged with international trafficking in cocaine. Data to confirm these connections are virtually nonexistent. Our research is based upon a close examination of the existing open literature and regional media, which often serves to give a voice to both the criminals and the terrorists. We have quite consciously tried to shy away from the ongoing events in Libya and Mali except where they might shed light on our hypothesis. The Sahel is a densely layered and intricately fragmented sub-region, and the criminals and terrorists who have chosen to operate there do so as participants in existing social, political and economic environments; they are not necessarily considered as exogenous actors nor are they necessarily seen as threats. What we have tried to do is not examine in detail the criminal networks or the terrorist groups, but suggest their relationships are more complex than most observers posit. Resorting to anti-terror tactics has led to an exaggerated response by U. Coexistence, Cooperation and Convergence of Terrorism, Organized Crime, and Crime The incident of the burned plane that had transported cocaine from South America to northern Mali might support the argument of potential cooperation between groups that coexist in this region. This position is espoused most vigorously, some argue to the point of conspiratorial paranoia Keenan The perceived success of AQIM has led to a continuing proliferation of AQ-branded groups that now operate across the region. This phenomenon closely parallels the franchising of AQ around the globe. The international community has witnessed a proliferation of regional and sub-regional groups that declare they have pledged loyalty to AQ. Drawing the necessary distinctions and differentiations allows the international community to put in place the necessary policies and prescriptions to deal with the matter, not only in the Sahel, but across the globe: By knowing your enemies, you can find out what it is they want. Once you know what they want, you can decide whether to deny it to them and thereby demonstrate the futility of their tactics, give it to them or negotiate and give them a part of it in order to cause them to end their campaign. By knowing your enemies, you can make an assessment not just of their motives but also their capabilities and of the caliber of their leaders and their organizations Richardson According to James R. Clapper, the United States Director of National Intelligence DNI , these increasing transnational organized crime entities and their links to international terrorism needed to be considered among the most pressing national security concerns of the United States. The DNI detailed specific areas of interaction that included: Terrorists and insurgents increasingly will turn to crime to generate funding and will acquire logistical support from criminals, in part because of successes by U. In some instances, terrorists and insurgents prefer to conduct criminal activities themselves; when they cannot do so, they turn to outside individuals and facilitatorsâ€¦ U. But is there a trend? All the argumentation, either thematic or specific as in the Sahel , appears to be based on anecdotal evidence and not the clear observation of clinical symptoms. Any supposed nexus must in such a case be seen as blurred, conceptually and in reality. Empirical evidence for the crime-terror link is scarce and varies over time. This makes it difficult to determine what aspects of the relationships are most significant. Such ambiguity demands much more granular information before any declaration of a nexus can be made. It is possible to argue that it is becoming increasingly difficult at times to distinguish between international terrorists and transnational criminals. They both share operational and organizational commonalities and their actions appear to be increasingly more blurred. It is argued that the current security crisis in the Sahel is explained by the links between crime, organized crime and terrorism UNODC This paper argues that these commonalities can be grouped into several broad categories of interaction â€” coexistence, cooperation and convergence. Intelligence Community confirms that it: Such links, however, might be deemed merely transactional. Criminal organizations and terrorist groups are both dependent upon the presence of weak governmental and law enforcement institutions. In other words, these

groups thrive in the presence of a weak government, which seems to be the case in the countries of this region. Governments may simply turn a blind eye to criminal activity, or governmental institutions may simply be too weak to be able to successfully confront the criminal networks or terrorist organizations. Often those institutions are themselves coopted by criminal networks, thereby benefitting both the criminal organizations as well as the terrorist groups. The situation in Guinea-Bissau lends credence to these words of warning. As the National Intelligence Council asserted, from Several countries could even be taken over and run by criminal networks National Intelligence Council Criminalized governance benefits both criminal networks and terrorist groups and fosters an environment that is conducive to both. Cooperation between terrorists and criminal networks takes place when each group determines that their inherent fear of contact outweigh the risks. Criminal networks are likely to risk disrupting their illicit relationships with governmental institutions only for short-periods of time and only for lucrative financial returns. Terrorist organizations, on the other hand, are likely to see such contact as merely the means to an end, their self-declared ideological ends. It is, however, an open question as to whether these short-term partnerships can mature into long-term relationships. The international community has already touted FARC as an example of such an organization and, most recently, the Mexican drug cartels. Such a phenomenon can be seen as a transition along a crime-terrorism continuum. All of these currents have emerged in an area of little strategic importance to the outside world. However, the Sahel has long been a sanctuary for outlaws smuggling persons, automobiles, gasoline and cigarettes. The Sahel has also seen this residual banditry merge and become intertwined with international drug smugglers using the same routes. This should, however, not be unexpected. While much of the region is uninhabited desert, all human activity " legitimate and illicit " relies on these same routes, converging on water and fuel stops. What distinguishes it from other AQ affiliates is the degree to which the group had been able to retain a regionally indigenous leadership who remain focused on conducting operations in the region. AQIM is deeply rooted in recent, post-independence, Algerian history. The GIA, deeply rooted in Algeria, had kept its distance from AQ and struggled to maintain its independence, rejecting foreign participation in its jihad, which ended in after the leader of the GSPC was forced out by Abdelmalik Drukal. By March , the GSPC allegedly abducted 32 tourists in groups numbering from one to eight on six different occasions from the Illizi region of the Algerian Sahara. In what was arguably an instance of the industrial kidnapping for ransom industry that has come to mark the region, secret negotiations followed shortly thereafter and the hostages were released in two groups, the first in May and the second in August. Interestingly, the first group that was kidnapped was freed by the Algerian army after an action that resulted in the death of nine GSPC members. But some of the kidnapers escaped. This incident is often considered to mark the emergence of criminal action by a terrorist group to finance its operations Scheele In , Belmokhtar broke with the GIA and switched his allegiance to the GSPC, managing to hold to his operational autonomy and leading the operations in Mauritania mentioned above. He had already established contact with the Tuareg in the region during the negotiations for the release of the hostages taken in Belmokhtar was keenly aware of the fact that no activity in the region was conducted without at least the approval and consent of the local population. From Algeria, the cigarettes are moved to their final destination Italy. In the process, Belmokhtar raised his profile to the point that air strikes against his camps were recommended The Guardian Viewed in the region as a combination of Robin Hood and the Scarlet Pimpernel, Belmokhtar is said to be ready to rob, smuggle or kidnap anyone or anything for anyone for the right price. Belmokhtar is, however, perhaps best known for using kidnapping for ransom to finance his operations. Many argue that local criminals actually carry out the kidnapping and then sell the hostages to AQIM affiliates for a profit Cristiani and Fabiani The AQIM affiliates conduct the negotiations extorting ransoms from the national governments of the hostages. The kidnapping of the 32 Europeans set a precedent. Government would not pay ransom, but other governments would. In early , a series of kidnappings across the region unfolded. By early , 42 individuals had been targeted. Five were killed or died in captivity and 24 released Lacher As Lewis and Diarra reported, a Swiss government report in confirmed the country had spent 5. Another report showed that 2 million Francs were allocated to pay Swiss workers who participated in the operation Lewis and Diarra According to David S. This attack brought the issue of the links between terrorists and criminal networks before the general public

in the most dramatic manner. The hostage crisis ended with major loss of life, including at least 37 expatriate workers and 29 militants. The attack was immediately cast by the media and most of the international community as a terrorist act committed by AQ. Belmokhtar lent credence to this claim when he released a video claiming responsibility for the attack. Missed, however, in most of this discussion was the fact that Belmokhtar labeled his group an AQ-affiliate but did not claim any affiliation with AQIM. This dispute is personal. It did not revolve around some obscure theological distinction drawn between Sunni and Sufi interpretations of Islamic text. His death, however, might serve to explain why the kidnapping effort quickly turned into an effort to destroy the gas facility; the militants were not prepared for anything more than trying to earn money quickly. It should be noted that it was claimed that Belmokhtar was killed in a battle in the Ametahi Valley in northern Mali on March 2, Conclusion This paper has attempted to demonstrate the link between terrorism and organized crime and crime using the Sahel region in North Africa as an example. The terrorist-criminal connection in the Sahel demonstrates, we believe, that there is a symbiotic relationship between these groups. They occupy the same geographic space at the same time and it is not coincidental. Both groups operate best in environments characterized by weak governance, and more often than not, no governance. Both maintain their ranks by drawing on the same demographic “young and dissatisfied men. Both groups evidence cooperation when it serves their individual organizational needs and purposes. But this is done only if a determination is made that such cooperation does not result in increased scrutiny by the authorities. Criminals will provide terrorist with whatever they require provided the price is right, and the proliferation of kidnappings for ransom across the Sahel shows that that includes hostages. Terrorists, in turn, are prepared to engage in, or at least tolerate, criminal activities if they serve their needs. This explains why criminals kidnap hostages and terrorists negotiate their ransom. The terrorists, ever sensitive to the local social and political dynamics, do not seek to interfere with established practices. The groups operating in the Sahel do not, however, demonstrate a great deal of convergence.

Chapter 5 : Organized Crime, the Army, and the Future of the Guatemalan People | Poynter

This paper presents an analysis of the future for organized crime. There are quite a number of issues that ought to be taken into account. For instance, the reader must understand what organized crime refers to and the current situation on the same.

As time went by, this organization comparable to the Ministry of Finance, extended its tentacles to invade other key government institutions that became the stage of successful criminal operations such as smuggling, theft of coffee containers, drug traffic, traffic of immigrants, car theft, kidnappings and bank hold-ups, among other far from orthodox activities. This criminal organization has remained intact for more than two decades. In official terms, warfare in Guatemala ceased in 1996. However, the military war virtually terminated at the end of 1996. In any event, from 1996 to 2000, the official war served as a curtain of smoke, or umbrella, for this organization to convert the Government of Guatemala in a delinquent Government which, with absolute impunity, set out to assault the Guatemalan people. Modernization, progress and development in Guatemala must inexorably experience the defeat of organized crime. To achieve this, major surgical modifications are required within the Army. This group of officers selected, from among its subordinates and promotion peers, permissive officers responsive to corruption, to occupy key positions within the Army and Public Administration. This enabled them to weave a web analogous to the overall structure of the State and, primarily to manage all of its delinquent actions with absolute impunity. Below are some examples: In turn, he recruits individuals well-known for their lack of scruples and reproachable vocation, such as Col. A good assortment of the background, tricks and wrongdoings of these military-delinquent individuals were broadly documented and recorded in Remhi and reports of the Commission for Historical Clarification. This enabled the parallel power to obtain key information to expand drug trafficking throughout the country. Further, with DEA and CIA support, General Ortega improved, with state-of-the-art technology, the surveillance systems to intercept telephone communications. This sophisticated equipment was installed at Mariscal Zavala Brigade and can be found in the buildings located at the end of the Sabana Arriba neighborhood, on the left side of the entrance to the brigade itself. The remaining telephone listening equipment is located at the place known as Aceituno, North of the Mariscal Zavala orchards. He took advantage of these positions to assume control of La Aurora airport, facilitating air traffic of illegal foreigners and drugs. However, during this period, the network makes a mistake in the course of drug transferring operations at La Aurora Airport. They failed to notice that the DEA had them under surveillance and are captured. They blame a certain Lt. He is subsequently transferred to the Northern Air Base with the same mission. This enables the felonious network to facilitate drug traffic by air and by land as well as the transferring of undocumented individuals. Callejas y Callejas virtually invades the General Bureau of Customs with friends and relatives particularly siblings of officers attached to the network. This enables the network to refine and lubricate the mechanisms of its far from orthodox activities. With this move -- Posadas at the front of the War Marine -- the network closes the loop of control over air, sea and land. A major figurehead -- Alfredo Moreno -- of the felonious organization was captured and jailed. While searching through his home, conventional, digital and photographic files were found in his computers, covering all of the organization and the corresponding leaders. He merely took some measures with mid-level military cadres that translated in dismissals from the Army of Lt. High authorities of the armed forces are under the absolute control of organized crime. The only fat fish who mutually asked for retirement were Generals Roberto Letona Hora and General Ortega Menaldo, following the display of compromising photographs showing them with Moreno and other transgressors including Alfonso Portillo, who received money from the criminal network for his services as political analyst for the organization. The neutralized withdrew or marginated officers that do not belong to or participate in the criminal network. They have left on the side and displaced all military officers who are not outlaws or thieves and, therefore, have refused to adhere to their interests. Slowly, they have taken over important positions. In practical terms, they have appointed all of the commanders, second and third commanders, with a view to having the armed forces respond to their deceitful interests: They have control over general orders. They make decisions on

appointments, promotions, demotions and awards. They manage the budget of the armed forces, ignoring with cynicism the generalized criticism. With no shame or blushing, they have favored, launched and empowered transfers to the Army, and particularly to the Presidential Staff. Such transfers, by law, are not subject to audits and thus, are easy mechanisms to channel thousands of millions of quetzals to the pockets of some civilian officers who cover up their felonious businesses. Most recent events Statements made by Mr. Paul Simons, Undersecretary of State for international drug-related issues, and by Mr. Such overwhelming statements were cause of dissension, whimpering and, especially, changes in military commands. First, government authorities showed an unusual and uncommon concern over drug traffic; they developed some anti-drug operations with propaganda background, and finally, went to a situation of availability of the armed institution to Cols. However, the displaced officers were substituted by others who are also members of organized crime. The changes represent more of the same, as shown in the case of the arrival of Col. Through the Presidential Staff they also manage relations with former Civilian Patrols PACs and psychological operations against their political opponents. In any case, the strategy of the criminal network is to permeate and participate in all of the structures of the Army with their own people so as to ensure their survival should they be defeated in the elections of Available options The first option is to decrease, rationalize, cleanse and radically re-structure the Armed Forces. Consequently, Guatemala would sadly remain in the hands of the same individuals: The second option would be through a constitutional reform, to simply abolish the Armed Forces. If Guatemalans are unable to take either road, they will never be able to enjoy any kind of decent and civilized future, with peace, welfare and development. This piece appeared in El Periodico on Nov. It was translated from the original Spanish by Patricia Sole.

Chapter 6 : How will technology drive the future of organized crime? ComplyAdvantage

instrument, and connecting organized crime risk assessment to the implementation of law and policy are practical ways in which organized crime activity can be better anticipated, investigated, and prevented.

Although the effects of illicit activities are not always obvious, all Canadians, through one form or another, feel them through victimization, higher insurance rates, fewer tax dollars to support social programs, and the eventual undermining of Canadian institutions and consumers. No community is immune from the effects of organized crime. As stated on the website of the Nathanson Centre for the Study of Organized Crime and Corruption, "since organized criminals seek out countries known to have less effective regulatory and enforcement systems, any jurisdiction that does not have adequate defences is at risk and may cause risk to other countries. As perhaps never before, the policies and enforcement capabilities of any one country have direct consequences globally. Federal, Provincial and Territorial FPT Governments continue to work together to find solutions to this pervasive problem. This continued commitment to work together, including with the law enforcement community, and associated partners is strong. It is not intended to describe every action that FPT Governments have taken or are taking to fight organized crime; instead, it provides an update of recent successes and future objectives. This report complements the annual report of the Criminal Intelligence Service Canada CISC Footnote 2 , which details trends in organized crime activity and identifies a variety of criminal markets and the threats they pose to Canadians. Taken together, these reports will provide Canadians with an up-to-date snapshot of the scope of the problem and actions that governments and law enforcement have taken to address the problem. In the s, organized crime was characterized primarily, but not exclusively, by outlaw motorcycle gangs OMGs , the illicit drug trade and associated turf wars. Today, organized crime activities have expanded beyond these "traditional" activities to include migrant smuggling, trafficking in humans and firearms, marihuana grow operations, identity theft, sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, the production and smuggling of counterfeit goods and money, motor vehicle theft, and more. Until recently, globalization and technological sophistication were considered emerging trends in organized crime - today they are the norm. Due to the advanced capabilities of these groups, they can be found virtually anywhere where there is a profit to be made through criminal ventures. Although the majority of these groups are concentrated in urban centers, many are now operating from smaller communities across the country. As such, governments and the law enforcement community must remain diligent and proactive in their efforts to prevent the displacement of organized crime. CISC reports that although ethnic and cultural heritage remains an influencing principle within the organized crime environment, the growing number of multi-ethnic groups is based on criminal capabilities rather than ethnicity Footnote 5. Similarly, the structure of organized crime groups is much more flexible today than in the past. Hierarchical groups continue to exist, most notably through OMGs. Law enforcement, however, is identifying groups that are based on temporary alliances requiring particular skills to complete a specific criminal enterprise. Once the criminal venture is completed, these individuals may or may not continue to work together Footnote 6. In recent years, organized crime groups have become more complex and sophisticated, as have new types of crime. These groups are increasingly using new and evolving technology to commit crime and to communicate with other criminal groups. For example, communications devices are frequently used to target sensitive personal and financial information in order to conduct identity theft and mass marketing fraud. Organized crime groups are also expanding into legitimate business activities, as well as branching out into new markets in Canada. Building a Collective Response: The NCC, a body composed of FPT government officials, prosecutors, and representatives from the law enforcement community was created to identify key issues for action. The NCC has three main responsibilities: The National Agenda recognizes that the fight against organized crime is a national priority that requires all levels of government, the law enforcement community and other partners to work together. The National Agenda identifies four main pillars to be addressed: The NCC is responsible for assisting in the development and implementation of the National Agenda in order to better combat organized crime. These pillars assist in meeting the ultimate objectives of: The NCC is unique in that it is the only body,

among the many bodies in Canada that address organized crime, which brings together both police and policy makers to discuss issues of common interest. Several measures were identified to enhance governance of the NCC: The NCC Executive and plenary bodies should be combined into one main body instead of two, which would take responsibility for strategically advising Deputy Ministers on serious and organized crime. The total membership would be approximately 25, including Co-Chairs. These new measures would facilitate national cooperation as closer links are established with local agencies and other FPT bodies that are involved in addressing the complexities of organized crime. Public Education Efforts continued to be directed at enhancing public education through the development of a national communications strategy to educate Canadians about organized crime. Public opinion research shows that the average Canadian believes that organized crime is serious and that it is present in their community, but that it does not affect them personally. The objectives of national communications efforts will include educating Canadians about the reality of organized crime and its reach, scope and effects on daily lives; promoting FPT actions, cooperation, operational efforts and successes; and increasing cohesion with other groups to build a unified approach to public communication. Towards this end, the NCC Secretariat is exploring the option of streamlining the two publications on organized crime. Data and Evaluation In an effort to strengthen the data and evaluation pillar of the National Agenda, salient evaluation findings on current anti-organized crime initiatives were brought forward to the NCC. The performance information gathered to date has been limited to federal partners. Several key data sources for identifying the extent of organized crime were explored. One of the two major police records management systems RMS was able to implement the new survey for January. The first data from this survey were released on February 6, for the two police services able to provide an entire year of data: The other major vendor of RMS is expected to incorporate these new fields during. As a result, the majority of police services should be collecting. Currently, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics has developed a pilot Survey of Fraud Against Businesses and administered it to establishments. The analysis of the pilot data is ongoing and the intention is to conduct a national survey in early. The project is designed to survey small, medium and large business establishments for the purpose of collecting data on the number of incidents of various types of fraud experienced in a month reference period. The Centre is exploring means to secure additional funds to undertake a Canada-wide survey of individuals to provide a more fulsome picture of the extent of fraud in Canada and its victims. Furthermore, the paucity of data on the incidence of fraud in Canada continues to be a challenge for policy makers and law enforcement. With this in mind, funds were sought and obtained from the federal Policy Research Initiative PRI to sponsor a business fraud survey that the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics has recently undertaken. A second phase of the project is currently being developed to undertake a Canada-wide survey of individuals to provide a more fulsome picture of the extent of fraud in Canada and its victims. International Efforts The NCC Executive recognizes that organized crime needs to be addressed both domestically and internationally. The NCC has the ability to provide to FPT partners an opportunity to inform and share information on the links between domestic and international policy. At present, there are a number of multilateral instruments and fora that deal with organized crime generally, outlined below: Attorney-General and the Secretary for Homeland Security. It brings together law enforcement and justice officials to advance several cross-border issues, of which combating organized crime is a central focus. Canada and the U. The CBCF also issues threat assessments on several issues, many of which are tied to organized crime, including organized crime threat assessment, firearms trafficking, trafficking in persons, drug smuggling and mass-marketing fraud. This year, the German Presidency has indicated that it will ensure continuity with the work undertaken by the United Kingdom and Russian Presidency in the following areas of relevance to law enforcement: The German Presidency has also asked that this G8 group of experts looks at initiating new projects in the areas of synthetic drugs, Intellectual Property Rights, as well as human trafficking and smuggling. Going forward, it is anticipated that additional global treaties may soon be in place in order to address specific sub-sectors of organized crime, including cybercrime, economic crime, money laundering, the sale of organs, mutual legal assistance and extradition, and kidnapping. The NCC can play an important role through the sharing of knowledge from concrete and practical experience; assisting in the identification of appropriate needs and responses; identifying obstacles to

cooperation; acting as a source of expertise for training and sharing of best practices; and being a key partner in the effective implementation of international agreements. Legislative and Regulatory Tools In , additional efforts were made to strengthen the legislative response to organized crime, through the coming into force of Bill C, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code Proceeds of Crime and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and to make consequential amendments to another Act. Bill C received Royal Assent on November 25, , and built upon existing legislative provisions to target proceeds of crime in relation to criminal organization offences and certain offences under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. In essence, Bill C created a reverse onus by which the offender must prove that property is not proceeds of crime. Recent legislative reforms relating to DNA and firearms could aid in efforts to counter organized crime. The list of primary designated offences expands to include secondary ones, such as robbery and break and enter. This move is expected to make it easier for police services across Canada to co-ordinate gun control activities with other crime control measures. To enhance the capacity of law enforcement to fight gun crime, the Government is supporting the Investments to Combat the Criminal Use of Firearms Initiative to improve the national collection, analysis and sharing of firearms-related intelligence and information. As this data becomes more available, it will assist in addressing the smuggling and trafficking of firearms. In May , Bill C, an Act to amend the Criminal Code minimum penalties for offences involving firearms received first reading in the House of Commons. The primary objectives of Bill C are to increase mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment for individuals who commit serious or repeat firearm offences, and to create the new offences of breaking and entering to steal a firearm, and robbery to steal a firearm. In November , Bill C, An Act to amend the Criminal Code reverse onus in bail hearings for firearm-related offences , was tabled. It proposes a "reverse onus" in bail hearings for certain offences involving firearms. Commonly referred to as "law enforcement justification LEJ provisions", sections The provisions provide those designated with a limited justification defence, provided that their conduct is reasonable and proportional under the circumstances. While used by law enforcement officials in a number of investigative and enforcement situations, LEJ provisions are particularly helpful for organized crime investigations. In order to ensure that the provisions are appropriately applied, section As an additional accountability measure, a mandatory Parliamentary Review of the use of provisions is currently underway. The NCC is also considering initiatives to better protect domestic witnesses through witness protection programs and to strengthen court processes through initiatives aimed at facilitating the management of complex cases. The RCMP has developed a discussion paper exploring the possibility of creating a national witness protection program in Canada. The discussion paper was presented to the NCC in and circulated for discussion and comment among federal-provincial-territorial partners. The RCMP is currently analyzing comments received in order to determine next steps on this issue and to ascertain the level of support to move forward. The Province of Quebec shared its recently developed action plan to address intimidation with the NCC. This action plan includes the establishment of an intimidation follow-up committee comprised of key partners involved in the fight against organized crime, including criminal justice personnel. Bill C received Royal Assent on December 14, This enactment amends the PCMLTFA to enhance the client identification, record-keeping and reporting measures applicable to financial institutions and intermediaries. It establishes a registration regime for money services businesses and foreign exchange dealers and creates a new offence for not registering. It also permits the Canada Border Services Agency CBSA to enter into agreements to share enforcement information in relation to the cross-border currency reporting regime with other border administrations. Key Sub-Sector Strategies and Priorities FPT governments have identified types of serious and organized criminal activity that are particularly pervasive " and particularly destructive " in Canada. The NCC has served as a key forum for the sharing of information and participating in the development of policies and programs to address these issues. Groups that possess higher-level criminal capabilities, such as Asian organized crime AOC and OMGs, are involved in the more complex aspects of the illicit drug market, such as marijuana and synthetic drug production, importation and deportation, and wholesale distribution. Lucrative profits from drug trafficking translate into increased power for organized crime and high costs that all Canadians bear through, for example, increased spending on Health Care. Marijuana grow operations MGOs , as well as trafficking and consumption of marijuana is increasing across

Canada. Efforts to address MGOs continue to tax all drug enforcement resources across the country Footnote 8. Data indicates that the problem is particularly serious in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec, although recent major seizures in rural parts of the Maritime Provinces indicate that the problem is by no means localized to specific regions Footnote 9. Furthermore, synthetic drug production and trafficking in Canada have reached unprecedented levels, which according to the RCMP, is primarily the result of increased involvement of major organized crime networks Footnote

Chapter 7 : Marc Goodman: A vision of crimes in the future | TED Talk

Transnational organized crime (TOC) poses a significant and growing threat to national and international security, with dire implications for public safety, public health, democratic institutions, and economic stability across the globe.

The conference[edit] In early May , Meyer Lansky , the Jewish-American crime syndicate boss, was married and he and his closest underworld friends concluded that the resort town of Atlantic City, New Jersey would be an ideal place to have both a honeymoon and also a conference, allowing Lansky to mix pleasure and business, along with the rest of the bosses. The date and place was set for the weekend of May 13â€”May 16, making the conference the first known underworld summit of its kind, which could be considered the first concrete move towards establishing the National Crime Syndicate that eventually controlled all major criminal activities across the United States. The organizing host of the conference was Atlantic City and South Jersey crime boss, Enoch "Nucky" Johnson , who provided the hotel accommodations, food and entertainment for all, while making a guarantee of no police interference. Delegations from Florida and Louisiana were also present at the time, which would most likely be, Luciano and Costello allies, Santo Trafficante, Sr. The old guard or " Mustache Petes " maintained traditional old world ideals and business practices that restricted them from working with other ethnic gangs outside of the Italian underworld, this was counter to the ideals and principles that the leaders, such as Luciano and Torrio wished to express to the other delegates in Atlantic City. The conference started off with an apparent embarrassing incident for some of those invited who tried to check into the first hotel Nucky Johnson had them registered, namely at the exclusive Atlantic City Breakers Hotel along the Boardwalk, which then was restricted to white Anglo-Saxon Protestant clients in later years, the Breakers Hotel catered to a mainly Jewish clientele, becoming known as "The Aristocrat of Kosher Hotels". Subsequently, Johnson heard about the problem and rushed over to the hotel to mitigate the situation. Al Capone being himself screamed at Nucky Johnson for not making the proper arrangements and a loud argument ensued between the two gangsters while the others watched and hoped they would not come to blows. Suddenly Johnson who was taller and heavier than Capone pushed him into a limousine and ordered every one to follow him. They headed for the Ritz-Carlton and Ambassador Hotels and when Capone reached the hotel he ripped several framed paintings and photos off the walls of the hotel and started to throw them at Nucky Johnson. The others concentrated on keeping Al Capone calm and quiet for the time being. For the first three days there were a constant round of parties at the hotels with Nucky Johnson supplying plenty of liquor, food and girls for entertainment. For the guests who brought their wives or girlfriends, Johnson provided the women with fur capes as gifts. Meyer Lansky who was the new bridegroom and guest of honor received the Presidential suite at the Ritz Hotel, with a constant supply of champagne for him and his wife Anna. There were several important items to discuss among the attendees such as constant competition for imported and bootleg liquor profits among the gangs, what to do about the liquor business if or when Prohibition ends, greater investment in gambling operations and what to do about the Chicago violence problem. The Atlantic City delegates conducted their more serious discussions and business, privately in conference rooms atop the Ritz and Ambassador Hotels. Not all the meetings were held in a room around a long table, some discussions were held out in the open, with the delegates taking their socks off and rolling up their pants for walks along the beach, on the sand and in the open air. This made the Conference no great secret, with local newspapers carrying photos of Al Capone and some of the other prominent delegates as they cruised down the Jersey shore boardwalk and beaches, dipping their feet into the water. One of the most important discussions was what to do when Prohibition ended. The bosses decided to reorganize themselves and their gangs into cooperative organizations, investing in legitimate breweries, distilleries and liquor importation franchises. By making investments in the legitimate liquor business and by owning nightclubs, bars and restaurants to distribute the liquor and maximize profits, this gave the Syndicate some security against the repeal of Prohibition. The delegates held discussions about taking a larger interest in illegal and cooperative gambling activities such as bookmaking, horse racing and casinos. The New York and Chicago representatives laid out a plan to tie in the national wire service for horse racing bettors with the Daily Racing Form and to lay off bets

throughout the United States. The Families in New York and Chicago would oversee and direct operations for this cooperative and very lucrative venture. New York bosses, Frank Costello and Meyer Lansky were chosen as directors to coordinate the operations along with Chicago representatives. Chicago businessman and underworld associate Moses Annenberg was not originally invited to the conference, but after running into Capone, the well known Annenberg was most likely invited to confer with the leaders on business matters concerning the national race wire. It was agreed by the conference delegates that investments in the legitimate liquor business and gambling was the way to offset the loss of profits from the end of Prohibition and discussions to divide the country into exclusive franchises and territories for the bosses and their gangs were started at the Atlantic City Conference. Another important topic was the ongoing violence and bloodletting that was occurring in Chicago. The underworld wars in Chicago and to some extent New York, had brought about a public and media outcry on law enforcement to stop the violence. There had been added media and law enforcement attention and this was placing pressure on underworld rackets and operations around the country. Most of the pressure was due to the recent St. With former Al Capone boss and mentor Johnny Torrio taking the lead and Charlie "Lucky" Luciano and the other delegates backing him up, Capone was chosen as a sacrificial lamb to ease the heat brought on the underworld and its leaders. Al Capone was convinced after much debate and refusal to allow himself to be arrested on a minor charge and sent to prison for a short period of time, deflecting the media and law enforcement pressure for the good of the whole underworld. After the conference was concluded, Chicago underworld boss Al Capone and his bodyguard Frank Rio went to Philadelphia where two friendly cops arrested and charged them with carrying a gun. Al Capone and Frank Rio were sentenced to a year in prison, but were released and back in Chicago after several months. The highly successful "Big Seven Group" was used as a model of future organization and peace for the new "National Syndicate". New York bosses, Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria and Salvatore Maranzano, were two old guard mafiosi who held a lot of power and influence nationally and could not be taken lightly. The two major underworld powers were ready to square off in a war, which was seen as running counter to the organizational plans for the future the Atlantic City delegates had agreed upon. The new national alliance or Syndicate in Chicago, Detroit, Boston, Philadelphia and elsewhere would back up the New York forces through removal of the old guard in their areas if need be. It was clear to the delegates at the Atlantic City Conference that Charlie "Lucky" Luciano was a leader who commanded great respect and would eventually become first among equals in the Syndicate. Underworld leaders such as Charlie Luciano, Johnny Torrio, Frank Costello, Meyer Lansky and Arnold Rothstein were men of the same ideology and vision, who saw the future of crime in organization and cooperation. Atlantic City delegates[edit] The terms capo and consigliere were not used until Salvatore Maranzano labeled the Italian underworld Cosa Nostra in ; the terms lieutenant and advisor were more common at the time, except with the Maranzano family, future Bonanno crime family , which had already been following the strict Cosa Nostra traditions of their native Sicily. The position of consigliere did not exist until Charlie "Lucky" Luciano became the de facto first amongst equals in La Cosa Nostra and added the position to the Family hierarchy in , when he formed the Commission. Underworld members, city or delegation they represented and their rank at time of conference:

Chapter 8 : UNODC and Organized Crime

National Agenda to Combat Organized Crime In , FPT Ministers responsible for Justice endorsed the National Agenda to Combat Organized Crime. The National Agenda recognizes that the fight against organized crime is a national priority that requires all levels of government, the law enforcement community and other partners to work together.

A Growing Threat to National and International Security Transnational organized crime TOC poses a significant and growing threat to national and international security, with dire implications for public safety, public health, democratic institutions, and economic stability across the globe. Not only are criminal networks expanding, but they also are diversifying their activities, resulting in the convergence of threats that were once distinct and today have explosive and destabilizing effects. Developing countries with weak rule of law can be particularly susceptible to TOC penetration. TOC penetration of states is deepening, leading to co-option in a few cases and further weakening of governance in many others. In countries with weak governance, there are corrupt officials who turn a blind eye to TOC activity. TOC networks insinuate themselves into the political process in a variety of ways. This is often accomplished through direct bribery but also by having members run for office ; setting up shadow economies; infiltrating financial and security sectors through coercion or corruption; and positioning themselves as alternate providers of governance, security, services, and livelihoods. TOC penetration of governments is exacerbating corruption and undermining governance, rule of law, judicial systems, free press, democratic institution-building, and transparency. Further, events in Somalia have shown how criminal control of territory and piracy ransoms generate significant sums of illicit revenue and promote the spread of government instability. Threats to the Economy, U. Competitiveness, and Strategic Markets. The price of doing business in countries affected by TOC is also rising as companies budget for additional security costs, adversely impacting foreign direct investment in many parts of the world. Further, transnational criminal organizations, leveraging their relationships with state-owned entities, industries, or state-allied actors, could gain influence over key commodities markets such as gas, oil, aluminum, and precious metals, along with potential exploitation of the transportation sector. The Department of Justice reports that 29 of the 63 organizations on its FY Consolidated Priority Organization Targets list, which includes the most significant international drug trafficking organizations DTOs threatening the United States, were associated with terrorist groups. Further, the terrorist organization al-Shabaab has engaged in criminal activities such as kidnapping for ransom and extortion, and may derive limited fees from extortion or protection of pirates to generate funding for its operations. While the crime-terror nexus is still mostly opportunistic, this nexus is critical nonetheless, especially if it were to involve the successful criminal transfer of WMD material to terrorists or their penetration of human smuggling networks as a means for terrorists to enter the United States. Expansion of Drug Trafficking. The demand for illicit drugs, both in the United States and abroad, fuels the power, impunity, and violence of criminal organizations around the globe. Mexican DTOs are escalating their violence to consolidate their market share within the Western Hemisphere, protect their operations in Mexico, and expand their reach into the United States. Many of the well-established organized criminal groups that had not been involved in drug traffickingâ€”including those in Russia, China, Italy, and the Balkansâ€”are now establishing ties to drug producers to develop their own distribution networks and markets. The expansion of drug trafficking is often accompanied by dramatic increases in local crime and corruption, as the United Nations has detected in regions such as West Africa and Central America. It is a criminal commercial transaction between willing parties who go their separate ways once they have procured illegal entry into a country. The vast majority of people who are assisted in illegally entering the United States and other countries are smuggled, rather than trafficked. They can move criminals, fugitives, terrorists, and trafficking victims, as well as economic migrants. They undermine the sovereignty of nations and often endanger the lives of those being smuggled. In its report *The Globalization of Crime: Trafficking in Persons TIP* , or human trafficking, refers to activities involved when one person obtains or holds another person in compelled service, such as involuntary servitude, slavery, debt bondage, and forced labor. TIP specifically targets the trafficked person as an object of criminal exploitationâ€”often for labor exploitation or

sexual exploitation purposes” and trafficking victims are frequently physically and emotionally abused. Although TIP is generally thought of as an international crime that involves the crossing of borders, TIP victims can also be trafficked within their own countries. Traffickers can move victims between locations within the same country and often sell them to other trafficking organizations. Criminal networks and illicit arms dealers also play important roles in the black markets from which terrorists and drug traffickers procure some of their weapons. Federal law enforcement agencies have intercepted large numbers of weapons or related items being smuggled to China, Russia, Mexico, the Philippines, Somalia, Turkmenistan, and Yemen in the last year alone. TOC networks are engaged in the theft of critical U. Theft of intellectual property ranges from movies, music, and video games to imitations of popular and trusted brand names, to proprietary designs of high-tech devices and manufacturing processes. This intellectual property theft causes significant business losses, erodes U. Through cybercrime, transnational criminal organizations pose a significant threat to financial and trust systems” banking, stock markets, e-currency, and value and credit card services” on which the world economy depends. For example, some estimates indicate that online frauds perpetrated by Central European cybercrime networks have defrauded U. According to the U. The National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force, led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation FBI, functions as a domestic focal point for 18 federal departments or agencies to coordinate, integrate, and share information related to cyber threat investigations, as well as make the Internet safer by pursuing terrorists, spies, and criminals who seek to exploit U. Computers and the Internet play a role in most transnational crimes today, either as the target or the weapon used in the crime. The use of the Internet, personal computers, and mobile devices all create a trail of digital evidence. Often the proper investigation of this evidence trail requires highly trained personnel. Crimes can occur more quickly, but investigations proceed more slowly due to the critical shortage of investigators with the knowledge and expertise to analyze ever increasing amounts of potential digital evidence. The Critical Role of Facilitators. The range of licit-illicit relationships is broad. At one end, criminals draw on the public reputations of licit actors to maintain facades of propriety for their operations. Business owners or bankers are enlisted to launder money, and employees of legitimate companies are used to conceal smuggling operations. They also depend on fraudulently created or fraudulently obtained documents, such as passports and visas, to move themselves or their clients into the United States and illegally reside here. Many of these disparate networks also appear to use the same casinos, financial intermediaries, and front companies to plan arms and narcotics deals because they view them as safe intermediaries for doing business. Cash-intensive and high-volume businesses such as casinos are especially attractive, particularly those in jurisdictions that lack the political will and oversight to regulate casino operations or fail to perform due diligence on casino licensees. Illicit networks similarly abuse some of the same financial intermediaries and front companies in regions where government or law enforcement corruption is prevalent, with officials receiving either revenues from the criminal businesses or ownership stakes in the legitimate-appearing commercial entity. Regional Priorities TOC” a global problem” manifests itself in various regions in different ways. TOC networks” including transnational gangs” have expanded and matured, threatening the security of citizens and the stability of governments throughout the region, with direct security implications for the United States. Central America is a key area of converging threats where illicit trafficking in drugs, people, and weapons” as well as other revenue streams” fuel increased instability. Transnational crime and its accompanying violence are threatening the prosperity of some Central American states and can cost up to eight percent of their gross domestic product, according to the World Bank. The Government of Mexico is waging an historic campaign against transnational criminal organizations, many of which are expanding beyond drug trafficking into human smuggling and trafficking, weapons smuggling, bulk cash smuggling, extortion, and kidnapping for ransom. TOC in Mexico makes the U. Farther south, Colombia has achieved remarkable success in reducing cocaine production and countering illegal armed groups, such as the FARC, that engage in TOC. Yet, with the decline of these organizations, new groups are emerging such as criminal bands known in Spanish as *Bandas Criminales*, or *Bacrim*s. From Recipient to Provider of Assistance After years of intensive capacity building assistance in Colombia, the United States is working to transfer financial and operational responsibility for institutional development to the Government of Colombia. This reality is the

result of the success of U. Nowhere is the convergence of transnational threats more apparent than in Afghanistan and Southwest Asia. The insurgency is seen in some areas of Afghanistan as criminally driven—“as opposed to ideologically motivated”—and in some areas, according to local Afghan officials and U. In other instances, ideologically driven insurgent networks are either directly trafficking in narcotics or have linked up with DTOs to finance their criminal actions. Russian organized crime syndicates and criminally linked oligarchs may attempt to collude with state or state-allied actors to undermine competition in strategic markets such as gas, oil, aluminum, and precious metals. At the same time, TOC networks in the region are establishing new ties to global drug trafficking networks. Nuclear material trafficking is an especially prominent concern in the former Soviet Union. The United States will continue to cooperate with Russia and the nations of the region to combat illicit drugs and TOC. A traditional conduit for smuggling between east and west, the Balkans has become an ideal environment for the cultivation and expansion of TOC. Weak institutions in Albania, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina have enabled Balkan-based TOC groups to seize control of key drug and human trafficking routes and Western European markets. The Balkans region has become a new entry point for Latin American cocaine, a source of synthetic drugs, and a transit region for heroin chemical precursors for use in the Caucasus and Afghanistan. Excess weapons are smuggled to countries of concern. Insufficient border controls and the ease of acquiring passports enable the transit of criminals and terrorist figures to Western Europe. Cooperation between the United States and the European Union, as well as bilateral cooperation with the countries in the region to foster legal institution building, economic progress, and good governance in the Balkans will be key to eliminating the environment supporting TOC. It has also become both a source of—and transit point for—methamphetamine destined for the Far East. West Africa also serves as a transit route for illicit proceeds flowing back to source countries. TOC exacerbates corruption and undermines the rule of law, democratic processes, and transparent business practices in several African states that already suffer from weak institutions. Due to its lack of law enforcement capabilities, its susceptibility to corruption, its porous borders, and its strategic location, Guinea-Bissau remains a significant hub of narcotics trafficking on the verge of developing into a narco-state. While many officials within the Government of Guinea-Bissau recognize the extent of the drug problem and express a willingness to address it, a crippling lack of resources and capacity remains a hindrance to real progress in combating drug trafficking. The recent re-appointment of U. Treasury-designated drug kingpin Jose Americo Bubo Na Tchuto as Naval Chief of Staff is likely to further entrench drug cartels in the permissive operating conditions prevailing in Guinea-Bissau. In the Gulf of Guinea, maritime criminals operate in areas of weak governance, kidnapping oil workers, stealing oil from pipelines, and causing environmental damage that harms the citizenry. The United States will work with African governments, European partners, and multilateral institutions to counter this threat to development, democratic processes, and the rule of law in the region. The economic importance of the region also heightens the threat posed to intellectual property rights, as a large portion of intellectual property theft originates from China and Southeast Asia. TOC networks in the region are also active in the illegal drug trade, trafficking precursor chemicals for use in illicit drug production. North Korean government entities have likely maintained ties with established crime networks, including those that produce counterfeit U. It is unclear whether these links persist.

Chapter 9 : The rising threat of organised crime on social media | World Economic Forum

Organized Crime in the United States: Trends and Issues for Congress Congressional Research Service Summary
Organized crime threatens multiple facets of the United States, including the economy and.

Explore the latest strategic trends, research and analysis Even as the digital revolution kicks into gear, there are signs everywhere of governments using new technologies to monitor and repress citizens. And now it seems crime syndicates, cartels and gangs are getting into the game. Some of them are quintessential early adopters; they canvass social media to identify and neutralize competitors, but also to manage public relations. After all, organized crime traditionally thrives in the shadows, far from the public gaze. Historically, crime groups invest in minimizing their public profile, not amplifying it. The internet is changing all that. The content of their sites is predictable. Most of them feature a combination of girls, guns and gore. Cartels in cyberspace Across Latin America, cyberspace is being hijacked by cartels, gangs and other organized-crime syndicates. They use it to threaten rivals, sell products, send instructions and recruit new members. None of this is particularly new. Some of these short clips are snuff films. Others are basically propaganda. Online reviews of some of them show that they vary in content and style with some featuring torture and executions, oratories by cartel leaders and even the occasional goodwill gesture. Some drug-trafficking groups like to tape their members providing relief assistance to victims of natural disasters. While cartels and gangs have been around for generations, cyberspace is allowing them to expand their power, prestige and profits. They are taking violence into the virtual realm, targeting bloggers, snitches and competitors. Given the volume of people on Facebook in Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador or Mexico, it is now possible to extort vast numbers of people at the click of a button. There has also been an uptick in kidnappings of software engineers and programmers as organized crime groups reinforce their digital capabilities. The end of free speech? They are generating a chilling or self-censoring effect on news media from across Mexico as well as the northern triangle countries of Central America and parts of South America. More positively, citizens are fighting back, both online and off. Digital activists are self-organizing in virtual communities and turning to the net as a source of trusted information. They are using their networks to curate and disseminate information to protect themselves. Research suggests that about 1. Likewise, self-defence groups are rising up against cartels and their associates. What can the tech sector do? So what do all these developments tell us? For one, they are a reminder of the ways in which social media are being absorbed into the 21st-century battlefield. Citizen journalists and digital collectives are heavily outgunned online and off. The tech sector can and should help create ways to empower the voiceless to speak out and communicate without fear and intimidation. This means creating safe spaces to share verified information anonymously.