

Forum:	Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1)
Issue:	Eradicating Forced Criminality resulting from Organized Crime
Student Officer:	John Glarentzos
Position:	Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is John Glarentzos and it is my utmost honor and pleasure to serve as a co-chair in the Disarmament and International Security Committee at this year's 12th PSMUN conference.

This year's conference marks my 5th conference as a student officer and my 10th conference in total, and needless to say, I am extremely thankful to have been given the opportunity to serve as your student officer. Model United Nations is more than an extracurricular activity to me, as it has offered me lots of new friendships with incredible people and unique experiences, all while allowing me to inform myself about serious global issues that concern nations today. As such, I cannot express my gratitude for being a part of this wonderful community and I hope I will be able to spread that feeling in the conference.

The Disarmament and International Security Committee discusses topics that usually threaten international peace and stability and delegates should aim to create effective solutions that promote peaceful operations and multilateral cooperation to ensure the mandate of this committee is being fulfilled.

At this point, I would like to mention that while this guide serves as a major source of information related to the topic, delegates should also conduct individual research to examine their individual country's policy on the issue so as to present effective solutions that could be realistically proposed by their respective nations.

For anyone wishing to contact me whilst studying this guide for any questions or inquires, I am including my email below. I am sure this conference is going to be one to remember, which is why I am looking forward to meeting you all in March!

Best Regards,

John

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INTRODUCTION

Organized crime is an umbrella term constituted of criminal activities carried out by well-structured, developed, and organized criminal organizations. Said organizations can carry out their operations internationally, which differentiates them from the common crime that usually occurs on a regional or national level. There are currently many organized criminal organizations, with famous examples including the Cosa Nostra (Italy) or the Bratva (Russia) mafias. Their activities vary from drug trade to human trafficking, and even governmental interference.

The establishment of such organizations occurs for a multitude of reasons, from economic ones to purely cultural ones, while their impact, especially on a transnational level, is often underestimated due to the secretive character of their operations. To ensure their intended effect organized criminal organizations cannot simply rely on the limited number of professional criminal actors for their operations, placing them often in need of personnel for a variety of smaller tasks, which is where forced criminality comes into play. The idea of forced criminality revolves around the concept of forcing everyday individuals to commit crimes such as theft or different forms of street crime, due to their financial or mental state. Their activities not only help such malicious organizations survive, but also interfere with the smooth functioning of communities worldwide.

This topic is directly related to the work conducted by this committee, seeing as it can be easily approached with the GA1 mandate. This is justified by the fact that, as mentioned earlier, the operations of criminal organizations can largely influence a nation's economy and even politics too. In more detail, criminal organizations have the power to interfere with a nation's democratic procedures and even place corrupt politicians in the government, thus, profoundly influencing global politics and the international equilibrium.

Furthermore, their activities can also affect national and international trade by causing unforeseen price fluctuations in products, which can have a detrimental effect on the economy of a nation. Finally, criminal organizations are usually well-armed, which is why their operations, nationally and internationally, usually come with the promotion of violent tactics and the distribution of arms. All these constitute a direct threat to disarmament and international security worldwide, which is why this topic adheres to this committee's mandate.

To conclude, organized crime can have detrimental effects on societies, by not only defying ideals such as the economic prosperity and political impartiality that characterize healthy and safe communities, but also by directly threatening the safety and well-being of individuals through practicing forced criminality. The introduction of online communication technologies in modern times further increases the difficulty of

tracing and limiting said activities, which is why in order to prevent a surge in forced criminality victims and therefore the continuation of the existence of criminal organizations, we need to take well-thought and effective steps immediately.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Human Trafficking

The use of violence or fraud with the aim of forcing individuals into labor or activities such as commercial sex acts and crimes.¹

Embezzlement

The crime of stealing money from an organization or a business one works for their own personal use.²

Forgery

A forgery is an illegal copy of a product that is created without the permission of the original creator.³

Organized Crime

Organized crime is a continuing criminal enterprise that rationally works to profit from illicit activities that are often in great public demand. Its continuing existence is maintained through corruption of public officials and the use of intimidation, threats or force to protect its operations.⁴

Corruption

Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.⁵

Drug Trade

Drug trade is an illicit type of trade that currently occurs globally. Any activity concerning the selling, buying or general distribution of illegal substances in the general public constitutes drug trade.⁶

¹ “What Is Human Trafficking?” *What Is Human Trafficking? | Homeland Security*, www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/what-human-trafficking.

² “Embezzlement.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/embezzlement.

³ “Forgery.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/forgery.

⁴ Fromiti. “Organized Crime Module 1 Key Issues: Defining Organized Crime.” *Organized Crime Module 1 Key Issues: Defining Organized Crime*, www.unodc.org/e4j/zh/organized-crime/module-1/key-issues/defining-organized-crime.html.

⁵ “What Is Corruption?” *Transparency.org*, www.transparency.org/en/what-is-corruption.

⁶ “Drug Trafficking.” *United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/index.html.

Forced Criminality

Forced criminality basically involves exploiters taking advantage of individuals that are in a poor economic or emotional condition and forcing them into criminal activities.⁷

Smuggling

Smuggling is basically the activity of transporting goods illegally obtained from one country to another in a potentially unlawful manner.⁸

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The motives behind the formation of criminal organizations

In modern times, criminal organizations are observed to have many different motives behind their formation, and usually, the reason behind the formation of a criminal organization is the fulfillment of a need or a purpose. The primary motive is considered to be a financial benefit or equivalent material gains obtainable through criminal activities. It is commonly known that members of criminal organizations can usually gather and utilize large sums of money, despite them being illicitly obtained. This usually occurs through money laundering from seemingly legitimate businesses, theft and fraud amongst others. The economic motive is even stronger when the organization consists of members that are struggling financially and consider the criminal path their only way to survive.

Another main motive for criminal organizations is exerting power and control. Power allows criminal organizations to exercise influence on the politics of a nation, by extension helping to ensure that the government follows a much more tolerant policy against them. To this effect, criminal organizations aim to place corrupt politicians in advantageous positions to ensure that they gain considerable control over nations and, in turn, get access to resources to facilitate their survival and fulfill their intentions.

Finally, criminal organizations operating with cultural or ethical motives isn't a rare phenomenon. Groups of like-minded people that want to assert their beliefs nationwide or even on an international scale could form criminal organizations, which would allow them to achieve their purpose more easily. That is because the funding and the armory criminal organizations can obtain enables these groups of people to exercise violence and commit several crimes of varying severity inside societies. This allows them to widely enforce their beliefs and habits through exercising violence on

⁷ "Forced Criminal Exploitation." *Together Free*, www.togetherfree.org.uk/forced-criminal-exploitation

⁸ "Smuggling." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/topic/smuggling.

everyday people while seeing opposition and troublemaking against entire governments is no longer a rare sight. A perfect example of such an organization is the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), a group that can be characterized as a criminal organization, that utilizes violence to enforce certain beliefs, claiming religious control of all Muslims. This is also connected to forced criminality, seeing as more often than not, ISIS is known to utilize individuals to carry on their violent actions, including terrorist attacks and usually the victims are helpless people that are forced into cooperating.

Conditions that can foster the development of Organized Crime

There are many conditions that can foster the development of criminal organizations worldwide. Weak governments that are easily corrupted play a key role in the survivability of these organizations, seeing as corrupt governments can easily be controlled by them, which enables them to basically bend the law to their needs and avoid it. Furthermore, governmental incompetency that doesn't satisfy the needs of the population can create the perfect conditions for the operation of criminal organizations. That is because, as mentioned earlier, some criminal organizations seek political control in hopes of ameliorating the living conditions of their members.

Flawed judicial systems also attract criminal organizations in nations, seeing as they can carry out their operations with a reduced risk of facing legal problems even when they don't have the ability to influence said nation's politics in their favor. For example, in some member states, it is common for criminal organizations to bribe law enforcement services, which allows them to carry on with unlawful activities such as theft and the exercise of violence without endangering themselves illegally. Furthermore, criminal organizations also make arrangements with border control units to ensure that they can realize their transnational activities and transport counterfeit goods from a nation to another without facing checks and border control. It is also worth mentioning that judicial officials such as judges can also be approached by criminal organizations to ensure that court cases against members of said criminal organization produce the wanted result.

Finally, poorly regulated economic sectors in a nation allow criminal organizations to make profits easier by exploiting the poorly managed markets for their gain, thus, maximizing their profits. When one or more of the aforementioned factors is present in a nation, the conditions benefit organized crime, which not only attracts more criminal organizations to conduct their operations, but also complicates the challenge of reducing criminality in said nations.

Common activities of criminal organizations

Not all criminal organizations have the exact same agenda. However, a somewhat common pattern is observed by investigators when examining the main operations of criminal organizations worldwide.

One of the most common activities a criminal organization might get involved in is the counterfeit product trade. This particular business brings huge profits to a criminal organization, necessary for the maintenance of the rest of its operations. The global profit from such business endeavors is estimated to be around 250 billion, with the majority of that being handled by criminal organizations. Yet, this crime is allegedly perceived by many as “less serious” compared to other organized criminal activities, and has, therefore, led to criminal organizations worldwide adopting the above method as their primary source of income. Profits are increased to an even greater margin seeing as trade of counterfeit products allows criminals to access the global legitimate market with fake products, thus making profits both legitimately and from the black market worldwide. Unfortunately, the introduction of online stores and digital technology has only aggravated the problem, seeing as counterfeit product trade can now take place globally in an even simpler manner, with their distribution being easier and less traceable since the necessary technology to monitor the entirety of millions online transactions related to the above does not yet exist. As a result, product prices can fluctuate to a great extent and the damages this can have to national economies are more severe than one might think. A good example of practicing this method is of course the “Neapolitan Camorra”, an Italian mafia organization that sources a significant portion of its profits from selling forged designer products in Asia.

Drug trade is also tied to criminal organizations, as it provides significant profits that can potentially be greater than those originating from counterfeit product trade, albeit with higher risks. Criminal organizations can distribute drugs worldwide and many of them even have their own production plants. In one way or another, most criminal organizations have access to worldwide drug circulation. They usually utilize domestic businesses to distribute the aforementioned substances undercover to minimize the risks of being implicated legally. The conditions that can cause this phenomenon include corrupt officials that ignore the aforementioned criminal activities or even doctors that help “legally” prescribe opioids, which are considered as a form of drugs. In addition, the Internet and the subsequent development of online communication technologies significantly help with the process of actually distributing said illegal substances, seeing as regulation is weaker and access to a global market of customers is instant. It is worth mentioning here that drug trade in criminal organizations is also directly related to forced criminality, seeing as in many cases, weakened individuals are forced or tricked into acting as drug dealers by criminal organizations, which for these organizations is more convenient than putting at risk their own people.

Finally, many criminal organizations are largely involved with the arms business. Whether it’s through illegal arms trade or simple weapons purchases, criminal organizations are most of the time reasonably supplied with arms and weaponry. The acquisition of weapons in these organizations allows them to discipline their members

through violence, if necessary, ensuring that the flow of operations is not disrupted. The main source of weapons for arms trade today are weapons from past wars and civil wars, given their sustained condition, while at the same time, cheap and unfortunately not hard to come by. It is also worth mentioning that another source of weapons for criminal organizations are “legal” arms businesses that act as fronts. The problem is further affected by the fact that monitoring the situation of illegal firearms is not easy, seeing as most of these were manufactured in a legal manner before entering illegal circulation. As such, governments come across issues when it comes to identifying illegal firearms being transported and circulated, and criminal organizations adopting more innovative techniques to do so does not alleviate the situation.

Although these are the main activities witnessed by experts, it is certain that organized criminals do not limit themselves to these three main ideas. Criminal organizations are open-minded, and they seek to fulfill their purpose and their motives, through whatever means necessary. Criminal organizations do not follow a moral code that places a boundary on their actions, which is why their expansion needs to be limited before the situation gets out of hand.

Types of criminal organizations

Hierarchy-based criminal organizations

This category of criminal organizations functions by following a strict hierarchical principle that clearly sets out the roles and obligations of each member in it. Most of the time, an individual or a small group of individuals are assigned the role of the leader or the manager, and every member of the criminal organization including sub-managers, external partners, and common members have to follow the command of the managing person or group. Such criminal organizations are highly organized with secrecy and effectiveness being of utmost importance in any activity that is conducted.

Any member participating in said organization can have one or multiple different roles, and their sole contribution is fulfilling these roles without requesting further information. Most of the time the amount of secrecy required in this type of organization is so high, that members rarely know each other, and only necessary contacts exist to ensure the integrity, secrecy, and anonymity that is required for the successful operation of these groups.

This specific structure generally leads to criminal organizations that are more influential and successful in the long term. The secrecy, organization, and discipline that characterize these groups are necessary elements for the achievement of more difficult tasks that go beyond common crimes. If the goal is, for example, to gain partial control over a nation’s economy and politics, placing corrupt politicians and other government officials in positions of power is standard practice for the accomplishment of the aforementioned goal, which is why organizations that have mastered these skills

are the ones that ultimately succeed. Experts have analyzed the pattern that is usually followed, which includes a range not limited to bribing politicians, extortion, and even placing members of criminal organizations in important positions, with the aim of preventing political corruption, which limits the spread of criminal organizations. However, new, improved measures need to be implemented, seeing as the problem is far from resolved and the danger of criminal organizations influencing the global, political scene is a very real one.

Cultural and ethnic criminal organizations

Criminal organizations also tend to operate based on cultural or moral ideals. Said organizations are usually smaller in size than hierarchical organizations, seeing as they, as opposed to hierarchical organizations, form bonds over a commonly shared cultural or ethnic ideal. For example, back in the early days of organized crime, immigrants in the United States formed small criminal groups that aimed to deliver a message by conducting criminal activities. Their purpose was to fight basically for the amelioration of the living conditions of the immigrants, and the only way their voices could be heard was through taking criminal action. Members also got the opportunity to protect themselves against corrupt police officers and other hostilities of their society.

Like in the past, culturally or morally based criminal organizations usually don't fight solely for economic profit or control, but also fight for a certain purpose, such as defending their culture, satisfying basic living needs, or even supporting a certain moral idea they find to be correct. However, despite their motive seeming to be of a higher moral stance, these groups often need to use extensive violence in order to successfully operate. That is because many times the socioeconomic status of the members of the organization requires the use of violent means in order to ensure that the organization is taken seriously and its goals are satisfied, seeing as from their perspective, fear in the community is the only way to gain respect, deliver their message, and achieve real results. The arms trade is of prime importance to these criminal organizations seeing as it is their main method of causing disorder through violence, which means that in order to ensure international disarmament, the purpose of this committee, measures that will eliminate violence and create security for communities both on a regional and international scale should be implemented.

Financially-modeled criminal organization

Finally, it is important to observe the third type of criminal organization structure that is seen, the enterprise or business one. The main idea behind this type of criminal organization is the financial concern its members have. Moreover, these criminal organizations, despite sharing common activities with hierarchically organized groups, have a slightly different prototype, seeing as they are based on the cooperation of many enterprises trying to achieve a common financial goal, rather than the cooperation of individuals of different values and positions. Their main goal is to make a financial profit, meaning that any relations are purely financial, while their activities

are focused on financial crimes such as money laundering and counterfeit product trade.

Forced Criminality stemming from Organized Crime

One of the activities concerning criminal organizations that was partly mentioned earlier is human trafficking. That is because human trafficking is a special case, as in criminal organizations, this translates to forced criminality that concerns everyday individuals. More specifically, there are several reasons why criminal organizations utilize or more accurately, exploit certain demographics to conduct their activities, and the effects this practice has can be detrimental for a person, and in the long term, entire communities. For this reason, it is of paramount importance to discuss the motivations of criminal organizations using that practice, the conditions that leave individuals vulnerable to such organizations, and what the actual effects are.

Benefits for criminal organizations

Criminal organizations, regardless of motives, beliefs, and structure, can significantly benefit from inviting vulnerable individuals to practice forced criminality. Because of their vulnerability, these individuals can be manipulated to complete tasks for reduced costs, thus reducing the operational costs of organizations and improving their revenue, without actually minimizing any activities. Moreover, such organizations do not have to worry about working conditions or liabilities such as loss of personnel, seeing as the people “hired” are highly replaceable in the eyes of criminal organizations. They can carelessly be assigned to the most dangerous tasks that wouldn’t be normally assigned to someone considered valuable inside the organization.

Another point to be considered is the fact that practicing forced criminality and operating through said individuals can significantly increase secrecy and anonymity in criminal organizations that rely on it. These organizations usually weaponize fear, to force or extort someone to commit crimes once they have lured them into joining. These practices tend to greatly discourage individuals from quitting, going to the police, or even asking unwanted questions, which makes them the perfect tools from the vantage point of criminal organizations. Managers of criminal organizations prefer relying on people that can easily be contained, controlled, and replaced, rather than freelancer criminals with their own interests and the potential for trouble. It is, therefore, evident that criminal organizations have quite a lot to gain from using people in a weak state for the fulfillment of their goals through forced criminality. Unfortunately, there are many reasons that can place an individual in an exploitable state that will be analyzed below, which ultimately facilitate criminal organizations.

Causes of individual involvement

The reasons, or rather the motivation for an individual to be enticed into becoming a “member” of a criminal organization vary. A primary motivation for someone to make

such a commitment is unemployment and economic vulnerability. Criminal organizations approach these individuals promising paychecks for easy jobs, food and water security, and education, without analyzing the risks of the profession or the working conditions. For a struggling individual, this seems like a golden opportunity, however, the person is completely unaware that criminal actions are required, and at that point, it may already be too late. Due to the loyalty and commitment required, they cannot escape, and they are forced to commit crimes which, despite being petty compared to the general function of a criminal organization, often cause legal problems to the person in question in the long term, all while assisting the criminal organization as a whole. Lack of education is also directly implicated in recruitment for criminal organizations, seeing as people who have not completed their education are more likely to struggle in securing a job above minimum wage, leading to unemployment and poverty, which then lead to forced criminality.

Of course, this method is directly related to forcing individuals into crime through debt bondage. In more detail, the victims here are mainly people with huge debts to the government, other businesses, etc. Criminal organizations approach these individuals and lend them the money to repay their debt, but force them to then work for the organizations in question until they repay the money that was lent to them. As such, many people end up victims of forced criminality seeing as they are asked to participate in criminal activities until their debt to the organizations is repaid. The fact that organizations sometimes apply huge interests to the money they lend means that they basically increase the amount the “worker” needs to pay back to an unbearable amount, basically enslaving someone in criminal activity for prolonged periods of time.

Another reason could be emotional vulnerability. Young people trying to cope with life difficulties might be facing mental health problems or be in a generally weak psychological state. This offers a huge advantage to criminal organization, who “prey” on such individuals through blackmail or trickery to force them into criminality. The organization’s “victims” are, then, forced to commit small crimes for unreasonably low pay, all while risking their future and their legal integrity.

It is also worth mentioning that criminal organizations might often make use of medical problems, or addictions of individuals. Moreover, organizations target people with drug addictions and try to lure them by exploiting their condition through offering access to drugs that can be enticing for example, due to their dependency on such. As a result, these people end up committing minor offenses without caring or being aware what the costs are. Although technically they are not forced into participating in this situation, the exploitation of such delicate health conditions leaves the victims with no choice but to follow the instructions given, seeing as their need supersedes their rationale.

Concluding, political incompetency is also commonly linked to forced criminality. The reason behind this is the fact that political incompetency causes an unsafe, dangerous and unfriendly environment in communities, and can create a combination of the aforementioned issues. It is, therefore, evident that in poorly governed countries, more and more people are likely to become victims of forced criminality stemming from organized crime.

Consequences of forced criminality

Victims of forced criminality suffer from a lot of negative consequences. From the physical and emotional harm they might experience, to the interference with their basic rights such as education and healthcare, it is a fact that individuals are forced into very dangerous circumstances.

First of all, their overall health is placed at risk when being engaged in criminal activities. Criminal organizations might assign dangerous activities, such as theft or drug acquisition related assignments, which really place the physical health and integrity of the individuals involved at risk, to the point where loss of life is a possible scenario. Moreover, even if the victims escape the obvious risks of physical harm, mental health conditions often make their appearance to threaten the emotional state of the victims. Depression, Drug addiction from exposure, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are not uncommon for survivors of forced criminality. As a result, these complications might follow them for the rest of their lives, marking them permanently whether they manage to escape the criminal world or not.

It is also worth mentioning, however, that having a criminal record can lead to severe problems when it comes to access in employment, education, and other important aspects of everyday life. That is because the criminal background that follows a victim of forced criminality stigmatizes them in society and prevents them from being healthy, functioning members of it. Due to the fact that in nations where organized crime is prevalent, there usually is corruption as we mentioned which leads to flawed justice systems. The victims of forced criminality cannot get legislative justice and have their record cleaned-off, meaning that escaping the criminal life once you get involved becomes increasingly difficult and returning to their past lives is next to impossible for the victims.

Finally, forced criminality does also has an impact on society as a whole. The development of forced criminality results in communities with increased criminality rates in general and a decrease of security in these communities. A lack of faith in law enforcement services starts to appear and a feeling of fear and distrust is observed amongst societies. As a result, societal growth is endangered and communities may start to break down gradually, which only aggravates the situation in its entirety.

Global impact of organized crime

Criminal organizations worldwide can have a significant influence over global security and the international stage, which is why this topic is being discussed within the GA1 mandate. Criminal organizations use illicit trade, drug trade, and arms distribution to make huge profits that are necessary for their maintenance. However, said practices impact domestic and international prices, causing huge problems for economies worldwide and influencing the lives of millions of people. Everything, from legitimate trade activities and simple monetary exchanges to financial transactions between companies internationally, can be compromised and negatively impacted, threatening even the very safety of a nation itself. It is also worth mentioning that corruption from criminal organizations can actively affect the international political scene, to the extent where the solutions proposed by nations are not as effective as necessary and any actual solutions are not implemented.

The development of the Internet further aggravates the situation, seeing as global communication has now become instant and can occur much more easily while avoiding regulatory measures online. As such, it can only be concluded that the expansion of criminal organizations and their operations globally is becoming easier day by day, meaning that activities such as counterfeit product trade and drug dealing become easier as well. Criminal organizations can make profits more easily than they used to, which benefits the further exploration of venturing into criminal organizations. The current situation is not ideal for finding effective solutions, which is why the capabilities of said organizations online need to be limited.

To summarize, forced criminality and organized crime can have many different origins, many different forms, and many different conditions under which they occur. After examining all the activities that are usually carried out and how they affect individuals and societies, it is reasonable to state that organized crime and the forced criminality it causes pose a threat both to individual security and well-being, as well as global disarmament and security. The situation further deteriorates with the development of modern technologies capable of deceit and increased criminal activity. If there is a chance to put an end to organized crime and the forced criminality stemming from it, action needs to be taken decisively.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Mexico

Mexico is characterized by well-organized criminal groups that conduct various activities between the Mexican and US borders. Their main activity is drug trade with Mexican criminal organizations constituting the primary source of illegal substances in the US and Mexico. Mexican criminal organizations also engage in arms trade, with the

main parties being groups across the US-Mexico border. They are also said to have one of the largest human trafficking businesses in the whole region. This situation is largely facilitated by Mexico's political system, which is partially corrupt, with many government officials being linked to local criminal organizations.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Mexicans suffered economic losses and eventually got involved in criminal organizations because it was their only option for a viable income. In most cases, individuals were approached by criminal organizations and forced into criminality using their poor economic condition that was described above. Mexican victims of forced criminalities often are forced into committing drug cartel related operations, that usually required the use of violence and often caused harm to the victims of forced criminality in the nation. It is also worth mentioning that due to the infiltration of organized crime in the nation's government, many forced criminality cases are ignored to a significant extent and victims rarely find legal support to make their case in courts. Mexico's legitimate side of the government has tried to implement new measures to tackle the issue, but the attempts were deemed ineffective despite reasonable proposals to tackle the issue.

Pakistan

Organized crime in Pakistan is at its peak. Forced criminality is also widespread in Pakistan, with individuals being forcibly involved in various types of criminal activities that can occur both in domestic and international territory. Illicit arms are widely available, and one can easily access them. The Pakistani drug trade is "flourishing", seeing as illegal substances can easily be obtained, either through domestic production or through illegal trade with neighboring nations. The Pakistani government is also corrupt to a considerable extent, with the security and judicial sectors showing great tolerance for criminal organizations and their operation both domestically and internationally. Even the prison systems are not functioning well, and the general justice system is malfunctioning from all sides, with criminal and terrorist organizations cooperating and operating almost freely in the nation. As a result, victims of forced criminality related to criminal organizations in Pakistan, that usually are forced to participate in the drug trade, often might end-up in legal trouble for their actions instead of the people behind the enforcement of criminality in the first place. On the other hand, there are again many cases where the victims of forced criminality do not find support judicially, a situation that is aggravated to an extent due to the speech suppression that currently exists in the country and is exercised by the government.

There have been many attempts to ameliorate the situation, from raising awareness campaigns to the creation of law-enforcement organizations, such as the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), an organization mainly responsible for tackling the drug trade in Pakistan through raids on criminal organization's facilities and arrests of individuals behind criminal organizations. The situation remains unchanged, however, and it is evident that the government follows a policy that is ineffective and doesn't really help

solve the issue. The factors that are causing these include the interference of criminal organizations with the nation's government, as previously mentioned, through bribing politicians and extortion, while at the same time lack of resources also plays its part to the increased delays.

Italy

Italy is renowned globally for its mafia and criminal organizations that have reigned in the country for decades. The fact of the matter, however, is that Italy has been trying to resolve the issue of criminal organizations since the early 1980s, when the Italian mafia ruled entire territories in Italy in all aspects. That was considered the peak of the Italian mafia, with their activities ranging from counterfeit product trade to drug dealing and money laundering. Many politicians at the time were related to the Italian mafia and corruption existed to a considerable extent. In the mid-1980s, after the raging situation had reached an all-time high with the assassinations of high-profile figures by the mafia, it was decided that action needed to be taken. Officials, with the aid of external information, were able to hold hundreds of members of the mafia accountable. This marked the start of a new era of fighting against the Italian mafia. Unfortunately, due to the mafia's extensive power and influence, the fight to limit the mafia's activities turned into a civil conflict between mafia officials and the government. Anyone who had any relation with the mafia at that time was considered a traitor and was immediately sent to court. That applied to everyone, and in 1993 even prime minister Andreotti was arrested for said suspicions, although he was released after proving his innocence. From the 1990s and onwards, a period of unrest and hundreds of arrests ensued, and the Italian mafia slowly became weaker as more and more forces started opposing it. Today, the Italian mafia still exists with a considerable amount of influence still under its belt. It still conducts operations domestically and internationally, but the extent of its influence has been reduced significantly.

Nicaragua

Nicaragua is also amongst the nations that haven't committed themselves to significantly reducing the forced criminality and human trafficking phenomenon domestically. The Nicaraguan government is currently dealing with the issue with way tamer efforts than required, despite warnings from social protection organizations. Judicial systems in the nation are significantly ineffective, and victim care services do not have the proper infrastructure or funding to operate. The nation continues to deny cooperation with NGOs and other relevant organizations that could significantly help ameliorate the situation. What further deteriorates the situation is the presence of paramilitary groups that often carry out activities such as abductions, with the victims facing a real possibility of being forced to participate in criminal actions that will assist the operation of said paramilitary groups

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC was established in 1997 by the UN Secretary General and currently serves as the forefront of the fight against illicit substances, organized crime, terrorism, and corruption. It has been occupied with the issue of organized crime and the forced criminality stemming from it, examining data concerning the way criminal organizations operate, their motives, their procedures, etc. They consistently try to provide solutions that are not only effective but unanimously implementable, to ensure that the resolution of the issue will be permanent. From providing regulation tools to creating new legislation, their attempts are truly noteworthy, and they have managed to truly bring about an amelioration of the situation. They also carefully monitor the issue of human trafficking and constantly discuss ways to limit it, in hopes of ceasing the development of criminal organizations that depend on it. Finally, in addition to further analysis and research on the topic, they have also created programs such as the Global Program Against Trafficking of persons (GPAT), a specialized program that significantly occupies itself with the exploitation of victims of forced criminality amongst others

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The OSCE is Europe's largest multinational security organization, founded in 1975. It discusses multiple topics pertaining to arms control and organized crime, and attempts to create a preventive agenda towards these issues. Concerning the issue of organized crime, the OSCE provides expert training on network management with the aim of better tracking and regulating all activities of criminal organizations. In an era where the Internet is our second reality, it is important to gain the ability to monitor criminal organizations with the same efficiency as in the real world. It also creates new legal frameworks concerning its regulatory effort and also ensures the implementation of any current regulation in place. This organization works with both nations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). This is quite beneficial because through working with both state and non-state factors, they can truly work on ensuring peace, stability and democracy, in the most effective ways possible. For example, the OSCE has been working with nations worldwide to provide resources and strengthen the effectiveness of arms control, while at the same time providing improved border control techniques ready for implementation. At the same time, however, its work also extends to working with NGOs in order to ensure that the victims of forced criminality do get access to the maximum amount of assistance available.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1 August 1975	The Organization for security and co-operation in Europe is founded at Helsinki.
1989	The Medellín Cartel, one of the most powerful and violent drug trafficking organizations in history, is effectively dismantled.
January 1993	Salvatore "Toto" Riina, the boss of the Sicilian Mafia at the time, is arrested in Corleone, Sicily. Riina was responsible for ordering numerous murders and other crimes during his tenure as boss.
1997	The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is founded.
15 November 2000	The UN General Assembly passes the 55/25 resolution, or in other words the UN convention against Organized crime, thus enabling many nations to use it as a reference when creating legislation.
5 April 2011	The 2011 anti-trafficking derivative of the European parliament is signed.
2019	The international operation "Pollino" leads to the arrest of at least 90 people, most of them belonging to the Calabrian 'Ndrangheta, one of the most powerful organized crime group in Italy.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

National frameworks

Many nations worldwide have introduced their own national legal frameworks in an attempt to combat domestic organized crime and forced criminality, with varying degrees of success. The measures they propose are sometimes quite efficient, but judging from a lack of change in the general situation, it is safe to say that most of the measures proposed are either ineffective or difficult to implement, most of the times due to a variety of different factors ranging from political corruption, to simply societal conditions that foster the development of criminal activities (inequalities, poverty, etc.). An example of legal attempts to tackle the issue such frameworks are the ones of Brazil. Brazil has attempted through taking legal action such as increasing police presence and actively trying to improve coordination between law enforcement agencies, however, due to a variety of factors including corruption and flawed justice systems, said frameworks came to no avail. On the other hand, however, there are frameworks that seem to have worked as efficiently as intended, and an example of these is the national framework the UK proposed in November 2018 on crime

strategy.⁹ This particular framework explains in detail practical measures that need to be taken towards mitigating the issue at hand, and judging by the generally low crime rates in the UK, it is safe to conclude that this framework has been implemented successfully to a large extent.

Use of improved means to monitor criminal activity

Many Member States have had the idea of implementing more advanced monitoring techniques online and in the real world, with the aim of reducing the activities related to organized crime that are not regulated or under control. Amongst the methods proposed are improved electronic surveillance hardware and software, the use of informants, and even an increase of undercover operations. These methods have proven to be quite effective, however, the only problem is that their effectiveness has been seen for the most part, in More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs). Many Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) do not have the financial strength to support the operation and maintenance of these advanced and costly monitoring techniques. As a result, these techniques are not universally applicable, which ultimately renders them ineffective due to the fact that solutions that will help solve the problem permanently on a global and not domestic solely scale are necessary.

UN convention against transnational organized crime (55/25)

This convention constitutes the main legal framework tool against organized crime and forced criminality that is applicable globally and is to be followed by all member states. It basically is split into 3 different documents, and each of these three deals with one of the three main aspects of organized crime, human trafficking, counterfeit product trade and firearms trade.¹⁰ The convention includes an official guideline for all national and international regulation that is to be adopted when it comes to combating organized crime and forced criminality. It is generally quite thorough, and it describes clearly how threatening organized crime can be. The solutions proposed are truly interesting, approaching the topic from multiple angles to ensure that at least some of the solutions proposed are applicable by the majority of member states, and delegates can draw ideas from it when drafting resolutions.

⁹ Gov. uk.

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752850/SOC-2018-web.pdf.

¹⁰ United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the ...

www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf.

EU efforts

The EU has come up with many proposals and documents that refer to combatting forced criminality and organized crime.¹¹ One of the main documents that need to be mentioned though is the 2011 anti-trafficking derivative of the European parliament, which is a document that provides legal advice when it comes to nations taking action against organized crime. Said advice contains many solid proposals on how we can tackle organized crime and, it definitely has some ideas worth investigating. What makes this document even more valuable is the inclusion of certain standards, when it comes to addressing the issue of forced criminality and trafficking in an effective and just way. These standards include the implementation of adequate training of law enforcement units and the protection of trafficking victims from facing criminal charges for their actions. The measures mentioned in this document approach the topic from a broader perspective and have the potential of being applied universally, offering countless of possible solutions to both exterminating criminal organizations and stopping forced criminality.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Strengthening international cooperation

International cooperation is to solve the problem at hand. Since organized crime includes many organizations that operate globally, nations need to work in unison in order to find solutions for the eradication of organized crime and forced criminality. This could be achieved through a variety of means, such as the creation of multinational alliances, or the creation of modernized standards when it comes to dealing with criminal organizations in order to avoid conflict. Another possibility would be the reinforcement and modernization of transnational law enforcement agencies, such as EUROPOL or INTERPOL. Whatever the means, if international cooperation is achieved, joint police or intelligence agencies can be created, amongst others. The options are endless when nations work together and combine their resources, and delegates are encouraged to keep this idea in mind when working out solutions

Adopting policies against corruption

As previously described, individuals that are forcibly involved in criminal activities cannot get justice or protect themselves due to the influence of corruption on the national law enforcement systems, which left individuals completely unprotected and victims of forced criminality exposed legally. A way to protect citizens from forced criminality and criminal organizations is tackling corruption and ensuring that the integrity of law enforcement and judicial systems worldwide leaves little room for

¹¹ "Lex - 32011L0036 - En - EUR-Lex." EUR, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32011L0036>.

manipulation by large-scale criminal actors. From creating new and improved legislations worldwide with zero tolerance on corruption, to working with multinational organizations, including the OESC or the UNODC to assist national efforts of eliminating corruption and provide the necessary resources for the achievement of this very goal, the solutions proposed can vary. It is without a doubt, however, that eliminating any involvement of criminal organizations with judicial and law enforcement systems is an effective method to protect individual victims of forced criminality.

Considering the role of Civil Society Organizations

A key solution to ending forced criminality stemming from organized crime is protecting citizens from being lured into getting involved in criminal activities. For that to be achieved, however, there needs to be established rapport between the government and the people, which can be achieved through Civil Society Organizations. By supporting this type of organizations, governments can truly get an in-depth idea of the situation in their respective countries, while at the same time working with the populations of their respective nations to ensure that they are properly protected from criminal organizations. Furthermore, through supporting these organizations, victims of forced criminality can receive the necessary help needed for them to return to a lawful way of life and completely cut all connections to crime altogether. All in all, Civil Society Organizations can truly assist both the prevention of forced criminality and the rehabilitation of victims from it, which is why delegates need to consider how can these organizations be supported by governments, with the aim of combatting forced criminality altogether.

Strengthening Border Control

Finally, one idea delegates should consider is strengthening border control so as to minimize the illicit products, substances, or firearms circulating from one country to another. This would result in the reduction of the global circulation of these commodities, and as a result, criminal organizations could be confined domestically, thus rendering their regulation to become way easier. This could be achieved through a variety of different ways. However, when drafting resolutions, delegates need to be careful not to impugn the construct of national sovereignty, while at the same time be attentive to create the necessary diplomatic bonds that will help strengthen border control in borders that split nations.

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About Don Tanol’ m full-blooded Sicilian born from the noise of the Vucciria market and the gentle sound of the waves of Mondello. I grew up eating “pane e panelle” and “pasta con le sarde”. But most of all, et al. “The Sordid History of the Sicilian Mafia.” *We Are Palermo*, 27 Dec. 2017, wearepalermo.com/the-history-of-sicilian-mafia/.

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