

## **NARCO TERRORISM (GLOBAL AND REGIONAL OVERVIEW)**

**By the SECI Center Anti-Terrorism Task Force  
Based on Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Department (KOM)  
of Turkish National Police (TNP)  
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### **THREAT FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND TERRORISM**

Every day the front pages of major newspapers carry incredible news stories about different crime groups operating on an unprecedented scale in almost every region of the world. Transnational organized crime will be one of the major problems facing policy makers in the 21st century besides terrorism. "Terrorism" and "organized crime" not only cause death of thousands of innocent people worldwide, but also cause emotional, moral, losses, and lead the community in desecration.

National security will be threatened by continuing trade in nuclear materials. Large-scale arms smuggling will fuel regional conflicts. The human costs of large scale drug trafficking and illegal alien smuggling will be observable in an ever-larger number of source and the destination countries. The proliferation of international prostitution and pornography rings will have serious social and health consequences. The costs of illicit timber trade, trafficking in rare species and nuclear materials has as yet unappreciated costs for the global environment. The massive profits of the diverse transnational organized crime groups, laundered in international financial markets, will undermine the security of the world financial system. Industrial competitiveness of legitimate businesses will be undercut by organized crime involvement in industrial and technological espionage.

Benefitting from increased travel, trade, telecommunications networks and computer links, the organized crime groups are determined for growth. The UN sources recently estimated that the annual proceeds of the drug trade is 500 billion US Dollars throughout the world. Organized crime groups in the next century will control an even larger share of the world's economy because the illicit share of the world's economy grows annually. Illegal businesses are highly profitable and remain untaxed.

International organized crime groups are the reverse of legitimate multi-national corporations. Many countries lack economic alternatives and crime groups become dominant economic and political forces. Offshore banking centers thrive in such settings, drawing money steadily from countries with powerful crime groups and eager tax evaders. Lack of harmonized legislation and the absence of mutual legal assistance treaties makes it impossible for foreign powers to effectively act against the crime groups.

### **THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME**

One could argue that terrorist groups differ from other criminal organizations or networks because of the motive behind the crime. Unlike drug traffickers and organized crime groups that primarily seek monetary gain, terrorist groups usually have non-financial goals: publicity, dissemination of an ideology, the destruction of a society or regime, and simply spreading terror and intimidation. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to clearly

separate terrorist from criminal motives. The reason is that, in many cases, terrorists are profit-oriented groups, in addition to their ideological motivations. The Balkans and Columbia are typical examples of this melting.

Despite the difficulty to clearly distinguish terrorist activities from those of organized crime and despite the fact that certain terrorist organizations are very wealthy. There can be no doubt that -in general -the financial dimension of organized crime is of another order of magnitude than that terrorism. Indeed, the financial flows linked terrorist activities are often very low and remain below the thresholds of control mechanisms within financial institutions, whereas the financial dimension of organized crime is huge. The aggregate size of global money laundering is estimated at ranging between 2% and 5% of the world's GDP (roughly US\$ 600 billion to 1.5 trillion).

## **NARCO-TERRORISM**

Links between terrorist organizations and drug traffickers take many forms, ranging from facilitation -- protection, transportation, and taxation -- to direct trafficking by the terrorist organization itself in order to finance its activities. Traffickers and terrorists have similar logistical needs in terms of materiel and the covert movement of goods, people and money.

From the relationships between drug traffickers and terrorists benefit both. Drug traffickers benefit from the terrorists' military skills, weapons supply, and access to clandestine organizations. Terrorists gain a source of revenue and expertise in illicit transfer and laundering of proceeds from illicit transactions. Both groups bring corrupt officials whose services provide mutual benefits, such as greater access to fraudulent documents, including passports and customs papers. Drug traffickers may also gain considerable freedom of movement when they operate in conjunction with terrorists who control large amounts of territory.

Terrorist groups and drug trafficking organizations increasingly rely on cell structures to accomplish their respective goals. While there may be a strong central leadership, day-to-day operations are carried out by members of compartmentalized cells. This structure enhances security by providing a degree of separation between the leadership and the rank-and-file. In addition, terrorists and drug traffickers use similar means to conceal profits and fund-raising. They use informal transfer systems such as "hawala," and also rely on bulk cash smuggling, multiple accounts, and front organizations to launder money. Both groups make use of fraudulent documents, including passports and other identification and customs documents to smuggle goods and weapons. They both fully exploit their networks of trusted couriers and contacts to conduct business. In addition, they use multiple cell phones and are careful about what they say on the phone to increase communications security.

The methods used for moving and laundering money for general criminal purposes are similar to those used to move money to support terrorist activities. It is no secret which countries and jurisdictions have poorly regulated banking structures, and both terrorist organizations and drug trafficking groups have made use of online transfers and accounts that do not require disclosure of owners. Moreover, bulk cash smuggling methods and informal networks such as "hawala" and the black market peso exchange are easy and

efficient ways to launder money. Criminal networks are in a perfect position to use methods that require doctoring of passports or customs declaration forms. These methods are unlikely to change in the near term. Though many countries have been quick to update their regulations, few have the law enforcement structure in place to carry out interdiction. If law enforcement capabilities improve globally, in the long-term traffickers and terrorists may increasingly use trusted individual couriers, or more complex balance transfers in informal networks.

In the past, state sponsors provided funding for terrorists, and their relationships with terrorist organizations were used to secure territory or provide access to gray arms networks. Lately, however, as state sponsorship of terrorism has come under increased scrutiny and greater international condemnation, terrorist groups have looked increasingly at drug trafficking as a source of revenue. But trafficking often has a two-fold purpose for the terrorists. Not only does it provide funds, it also furthers the strategic objectives of the terrorists. Some terrorist groups believe that they can weaken their enemies by flooding their societies with addictive drugs.

Growing pressure on state sponsors of terrorism has increased the likelihood that terrorists will become involved in the drug trade. Interdiction of terrorist finances and shutdowns of "charitable" and other non-governmental front organizations have also contributed to their convergence. Terrorist groups are increasingly able to justify their involvement in illicit activity to their membership and have largely abandoned the belief that it can damage the moral basis for their cause.

## Global Overview on Connections of Terrorism and Organized Crime

### **In the America Continent**

- Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)**
- National Liberation Army (ELN) /Colombia**
- United Self-Defense Groups of Colombia (AUC)**
- Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso SL) (Peru)**
- Tri-Border Groups/ Paraguay-Brazil-Argentina**

### **South Asia & Former Soviet Union**

- Al-Qaida**
- Kashmiri militant groups**
- Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Sri Lanka)**
- Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)**

### **Middle East**

- Hizballah**

### **Europe/Turkey**

- Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)**

The PKK "taxes" ethnic Kurdish drug traffickers and individual cells traffic heroin to support their operations. The successful investigations and interdiction efforts unearthed the

involvement of terrorist organizations at all stages of drug trade as a mean of financial support. PKK terrorist organization is in close cooperation with the illegal drug organizations with regard to the transportation of drugs to the European countries.

Terrorist organization KADEK (PKK) is controlling the street level sales of the illegal drugs in the European market by using the political refugees under their own control in the European countries and the individuals coming to such countries through illegal means.

*It is stated in the International Crime Overview Report 2000 of USA that the terrorist organization PKK is engaged in the following;* Financing terrorist activities through heroin smuggling in the Western Europe and Southeast Anatolia, Intensifying its activities in the traditional and new areas of crime, while the terrorist and radical groups acting against the state administrations since the end of the cold war are getting more embedded with the traditional organized criminal groups and drugs smugglers, Providing a significant revenue from the proceeds of heroin entering into Turkey, in the Southeast Anatolia.

Furthermore, Asa Hutchinson Head of Drugs Enforcement Agency (DEA) acting under the body of US

<b>STATISTICS ON TERROR RELATED DRUG SEIZURES 1984-2004</b>	
<b>CASE</b>	<b>327</b>
<b>HEROINE</b>	<b>3.551 kg</b>
<b>HASHISH</b>	<b>21.256 kg</b>
<b>CANNABIS</b>	<b>2.484.003 root</b>
<b>MORPHINE BASE</b>	<b>2.127 kg</b>
<b>ACETIC ANHYDRIDE</b>	<b>4.305 kg</b>
<b>COCAINE</b>	<b>26.190 kg</b>
<b>OPIUM GUM</b>	<b>710 kg</b>
<b>AMPHETAMINE</b>	<b>8 kg</b>
<b>SODIUM CARBONADE</b>	<b>277.000 tabl</b>
<b>DRUG LAB</b>	<b>1.080 kg</b>
<b>DRUG LAB</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL DEFENDAR 756 PERSONS</b>	

Department of Justice, has mentioned in his speech on narco-terrorism addressed to the American Congress in April 2002 that the terrorist organization PKK is receiving a commission from drugs smuggling in the southeast of Turkey and from its other fields of activity and is harboring the drugs smugglers.