

- inspection of the safety of personal property of residents of Ancortes, who are on vacation outside the city (188 raids in 2010);
- issuance of written warnings to persons who parked the car in unauthorized places;
- patrolling in the city center to protect property in offices legal entities;
- informing the public about sexual acts in the city crimes.

In addition, the participants of such voluntary patrols during various events, celebrations of defining events for the city help the local police, in addition to maintaining public order, also regulate traffic [5].

Thus, the concept provides an opportunity for the public to cooperate with the police to quickly identify and resolve problems with public order, crime prevention. The concept also defines the implementation of some of the functions of the police, namely social services and crime prevention should be a priority in law enforcement.

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### **TRANSNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF CHINESE CRIME ORGANIZATIONS**

Large numbers of illegal migrants move directly from China into large Chinese communities in Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, and Costa Rica. In those countries, which have no visa requirement, local criminal organizations obtain documentation for the migrants. In the late 1990s, Interpol identified 18 local Chinese gangs that were federated in Central America under the Fa Yen triad. According to a 1995 report, Taiwanese

nationals in Guatemala established a people-trafficking route connecting Taiwan with Southern California, where other Taiwanese nationals had established a destination point.

A 2002 report characterized Guatemala as “a significant transit country for alien smuggling, both from neighboring Central American countries and Ecuador and from China, Taiwan, and South Asia...” Reportedly, migrants moving from China to the United States via Guatemala pay as much as US \$25,000 to their Chinese traffickers. Belize reportedly also has functioned as a transit point for illegal migrants and narcotics between Taiwan and the United States, under the influence of bribes to government officials from Taiwan-based triads.

In 2000, the National Institute of Justice described Panama as a major transit point for illegal migrants into the United States from a number of countries, including China. The award of a long-term contract by the government of Panama to the Hong Kong-based Hutchison Whampoa Company to operate shipping facilities at the Panama Canal’s port cities of Balboa and Cristobal, has aroused speculation that this Chinese connection might gain traffickers free access to the canal.

The activity of Chinese criminal groups in South America is concentrated most heavily in what is known as the Tri-Border Area (TBA), where the territory of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay meet. Within that region, the center of Chinese criminal activity is Ciudad del Este, a city of about 250,000 in southeastern Paraguay. This boom town reportedly contributes 60 percent of Paraguay’s tax revenue, much of which is based on illegal activity. That financial support has prevented government authorities from exercising border controls with neighboring Brazil and Argentina and from establishing a credible police presence in the city. A 1998 report characterizes Ciudad del Este as “the criminal outpost for regional and international mafias and it lives off counterfeit goods, smuggling, cheap electronics and clothing, drug-trafficking, prostitution, the trade of minors and the small arms trade.” According to that report, four of every five people in the city are illegal immigrants. Initially encouraged by the Paraguayan government, a strong surge of immigration from China began in the 1980s and has continued since that time. The city’s mainly Cantonese Chinese population, estimated at as high as 30,000 (about 9,000 of which are legal immigrants), has been an ideal environment for the operations of Chinese criminal groups.

The dynamism of the Chinese community in the city has attracted Chinese criminal groups from China and from Taiwan. Members of at least one triad, the Sun Yee On, are known to be based in Ciudad del Este. The Chinese groups specialize in providing “protection” to the local Chinese business people and in imposing “taxes” on the containers imported by the Chinese businesses from Asia. When the groups import goods directly from Asia, the Chinese business community is obligated to purchase that

merchandise, or suffer the consequences of not doing so. In this way, the criminal groups gain monopoly control over the import of particular types of merchandise.

Hong Kong-based criminal groups engage in large-scale trafficking in pirated products, particularly electronics, from China to Ciudad del Este. According to international intelligence agencies, those groups also maintain strong ties with the pro-Iranian Hizballah in the TBA. Ayrton Nascimento Vicente, who was chief of Brazil's TBA Command, an organization created by the three national governments to control the zone, confirmed the existence in the TBA of Chinese criminal groups with branches in São Paulo (Brazil), Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), San Francisco (California), and Buenos Aires, among other cities.

In 2001 the Paraguayan government was making a significant effort to neutralize the activities of the Chinese mafias, but with only occasional success. A few major organizational leaders such as Wu Wen Huan, an alleged extortionist, tax evader, and trafficker in illegal commodities, have been arrested in the past two years. According to regional security expert Mariano Bartolomé, Chinese criminal activity has increased in the TBA in general and Ciudad del Este in particular because the region plays a key role in the expansion plans of these criminal organizations into Argentina. The objective of the Chinese criminals is to establish themselves in the duty-free zone of the Argentine province of San Luis. At the same time, economic pressure has increased to eliminate the Chinese criminal element from the region. A group of 15 Taiwanese industrialists has shown interest in establishing branches of their industries in the Eastern Industrial Park of Ciudad del Este, on condition that local authorities eradicate the Chinese mafia in the TBA.

The Chinese mafia in the TBA are known to collaborate with the Islamic terrorist groups in the region. According to Brazilian investigative reporter Roberto Godoy, at least two organizations – the Sung-I and Ming families – have engaged in illegal operations with the Egypt-based Gamaa Islamiya (Islamic Group). In December 2000, Sung-I sold a shipment of munitions, labeled as medical equipment, to the Islamic Group in Egypt. The Ming family has managed Islamic Group funds from Ciudad del Este in a financial circuit that includes Guyana and the Cayman Islands.

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