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ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION

Organized crime and endemic corruption threaten the stability of Ukraine and undermine its transition to a market economy. The indigenous crime problem of Ukraine is significant, but the problems are exacerbated by the criminalization of the Russian state and most of the successor states of the former USSR. Ukraine's very independence is threatened by its inability to satisfy its citizens' financial needs, a problem severely exacerbated by the endemic corruption and the hijacking of the privatization process by former members of the nomenklatura (party elite). Nationalism, a potent force for state construction in Ukraine, cannot alone counteract the corrosive impacts of crony capitalism and organized crime.

Corruption in Ukraine is strongly linked to organized crime. It is clear that the fusion of money and power since independence in 1991 transformed the role of Ukraine's law enforcement institutions, so that their original task of protecting the Soviet system from within became one of supporting criminal activity by the new economic and political elites. Organized crime became synonymous with the functioning of the state.

Present day organized crime and corruption in Ukraine, complex in both content and structure, are a direct result of the profound economic, cultural, and political changes brought about during Ukraine's transition as a Newly Independent State. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 1990, the number of recorded economic crimes in Ukraine was 35, 723; by 1999, this figure had risen to 65,724. Hidden figures and underreporting, however, ensure that these numbers are a gross underestimate. The highest levels of criminal activity occur in the credit and financial system; the fuel and energy sector, the area of taxation; mining and metals industries; foreign economic activity; and the area of privatization. Money is laundered through real estate, insurance, financial and non-financial institutions, shell companies, and bulk cashsmuggling schemes. Criminals use aliases to register as [ultimate beneficial owners] UBOs of companies to comeingle licit and illicit funds. Transnational organized crime syndicates use Ukraine as a transit country for money and drugs. Transactions are routed through offshore tax havens to obscure ownership, evade taxes, or mask illicit profits.

The concept of «mafia», widely used to describe rackets, the most pervasive element of low-level organized crime, is not the most disturbing element of the crime problem. The criminal-political nexus – the alliance of the former party elite, members of the law enforcement and security apparatuses, and the gangs of organized criminals who together penetrate the licit and illicit sectors – is the most pernicious element of the crime phenomenon in Ukraine.

Criminalization of the banking sector and the exploitation of the privatization process have been major impediments to the development of a free market and an equitable distribution of property. The extent of these problems distinguishes organized crime and corruption in the successor states from those of other coun – tries with serious crime problems. Organized crime associated with banking and financial markets is more destabilizing than the more conventional elements of organized crime activity such as extortion, prostitution, and gambling rackets.

Realistically, organized economic crime cannot exist without the cooperation of government entities. It is no coincidence that the term «oligarchy» has become firmly entrenched in the Ukrainian political lexicon. It is testimony to the symbiosis of the criminal, business and political worlds in Ukraine. In Ukraine, 364 of 450 national deputies have ties to the economic activities of 3,100 businesses that were responsible for 23.5 % of the country's exports and 10 % of the country's imports. Taken together, these businesses had a 4.1 billion hryvnia debt to the state budget.

In the past ten years, economic reform in Ukraine has not served to deter economic crime, but rather has encouraged the conditions under which it can thrive. Failed economic reform resulted in many undesirable activities and outcomes, including the unequal allocation of areas of the economy that yield super profits. For example, public officials are gaining access to financing and crediting privileges in super-profitable economic areas – areas that possess the highest level of liquidity and recoupment of capital investment such as distillery and tobacco production, foodstuff and oil-processing industry and etc. Other undesirable activities and outcomes include: the creation of monopoly associations and privileges; illegal redistribution of state resources to criminal businesses; granting of privileges to corporate and bureaucratic entities; fluctuations in pricing; and a significant decline in production in areas with low concentrations of resources. The resulting economic crisis opened the door for illegal exportation of goods to foreign countries, theft of currency and fraud. As a result, Ukraine was plunged into an economic crisis with all its negative consequences: a decline in production, economic imbalance, a decline in the standard of living, inflation and hyperinflation, a decrease in the productivity of labor and so on. This then created ideal conditions for rampant organized economic crime and corruption including: smuggling, exporting of unlicensed raw materials and rare-earth metals, massive tax evasion, counterfeiting, price manipulation, monetary resources fraud, engaging in forbidden trades, the establishment of fictitious enterprises,

lending operations using counterfeit notes, murder-for-hire, contract killings, and so on.

In Ukraine, individuals pursue a parliamentary career because it gives them an immunity from prosecution. Politicians are very reluctant to lift their colleagues' immunity, even when confronted with overwhelming evidence of their criminality. The impunity of politicians raises questions among the citizens concerning the integrity of the legislative process. Compounding their cynicism is that election to parliament often allows members to rapidly acquire wealth. A hole in the law permits members of parliament to obtain consultancies from foreign governments, foreign and Ukrainian institutions, and other organizations. Despite the rapid turnover in these high offices, individuals use their short terms in office for rapid enrichment.

The common belief in Ukraine is that Ukrainian organized crime is as equally powerful as the state; it is running the economy; and it is immune from criminal prosecution. Its presence undermines Ukrainian attempts to normalize market relations and combat economic criminal activity. Ukrainian law enforcement agencies and supervisory bodies require restructuring aimed at increasing the qualitative effectiveness of law enforcement activities. The need for the NBI or a similar agency responsible for pretrial investigation, removing the sources of corruption and economic crime, and forecasting the dynamics of crime in Ukraine is urgent. Reforming law enforcement agencies and supervisory bodies before new legislation and directives are developed must be a prerequisite to help state agencies battle and overcome organized economic crime.

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LINGUISTICS AND LAW IN THE SECURITY SPHERE

The security sphere of Ukraine is characterized by a high level of uncertainty, a significant influence of global processes and development trends, the presence of a number of unsolved problems in the system of public administration and the system of ensuring national security.

International cooperation is important both for an individual country and for the global community.

As we know, the word is the main means of communication, it can save and take life, to establish and withdraw laws, to call for both humanity and violence.