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TRADITIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE MODERN WORLD

The economic situation in Ukraine in recent years is a cause for concern, which is determined by the negative indicators of the state, dynamics and geography of criminal organizations, which nowadays are one of the destabilizing factors in the political, social, economic and legal spheres, creating a real threat to the national security and demographic development of the state.

As we know criminal organizations refer to centralized enterprises established in order to engage in illegal activities, most commonly for the purpose of generating substantial profit for the criminals involved. Some criminal organizations, such as terrorist organizations, are politically motivated. Mafias are criminal organizations whose primary motivation is profit. Gangs sometimes become "disciplined" enough to be considered "organized." Organized crime, however defined, is characterized by a few basic qualities including durability over time, diversified interests, hierarchical structure, capital accumulation, reinvestment, access to political protection, and the use of violence to protect interests.

Organized crime takes advantage of social conditions or laws, such as Prohibition against alcohol, illegal gambling, prostitution, or drugs, to find a substantial market in which to operate, satisfying those desires of members of society for things deemed unacceptable. Equally, they use the cooperation of law enforcement or the judicial system in turning a blind eye to their activities in exchange for financial or other reward.

Organized crime, therefore, succeeds based on the corruption and weaknesses of those who are not considered criminals. Elimination of organized crime can only be accomplished when the society as a whole rejects their activities.

The law of Ukraine on the organizational and legal basis for combating organized crime defines organized crime as "a set of crimes committed in connection with the creation and activities of organized criminal groups".

Organized crime syndicates are often highly regimented with heavily codified roles and codes of action. These organizations often communicate through secret means to avoid police surveillance. Many organized crime operations have legal business fronts, such as licensed gambling, building construction, and trash hauling, which operate in parallel with and provide cover for the criminal activities. The illegal activities may include drug trafficking, money laundering, prostitution, extortion, and murder for hire, hijacking, fraud, and insider trading.

Other criminal operations engage in human trafficking, political corruption, black marketeering, political violence, racist and religiously motivated violence, terrorism, and crimes against humanity.

In order for a criminal organization to prosper, some degree of support is required from the society in which it operates. Thus, it is often necessary to corrupt some of its respected members, most commonly achieved through bribery, blackmail, and the establishment of symbiotic relationships with legitimate businesses. Judges, police officers, and legislators are especially targeted for control by organized crime via bribes, threats, or a combination thereof.

Organized crime theft and fraud activities often victimize legitimate businesses, by hijacking cargo trucks, robbing goods, committing bankruptcy fraud, insurance fraud, or stock fraud (insider trading). Organized crime groups also victimize individuals by car theft (either for dismantling at "chop shops" or for export), burglary, credit card fraud, and stock fraud. Some organized crime groups defraud national, state, or local governments by bid-rigging public projects, counterfeiting money, smuggling or manufacturing untaxed alcohol (bootlegging) or cigarettes, and providing immigrant workers to avoid taxes.

Organized crime groups also provide a range of illegal services and goods, such as loan-sharking of money at very high interest rates, bookmaking and gambling, prostitution, drug trafficking, gunrunning, providing murder for hire, illegal dumping of toxic waste, people smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

Organized crime groups also do a range of business and labor racketeering activities, such as casino skimming, insider trading, setting up monopolies in industries such as garbage collecting and cement pouring, bid rigging, getting "no-show" and "no-work" jobs, using non-union labor and pocketing the wage difference, money laundering, political corruption, and bullying.

In addition to what is considered traditional organized crime involving direct crimes of fraud swindles, scams, racketeering, and other illegal acts motivated by the accumulation of monetary gain, there is also non-traditional

organized crime which is engaged in for political or ideological gain or acceptance. Such crime groups may be linked to or be part of terrorist organizations.

Modern organized criminal enterprises make money by specializing in a variety of crimes, including extortion, blackmail, gambling, loan-sharking, political corruption, and the manufacture and sale of illicit narcotics.

Extortion, a time-tested endeavor of organized crime, is the acquisition of property through the use of threats or force. For instance, a criminal enterprise located in a certain neighborhood of a city may visit shopkeepers and demand a specific amount of so-called protection money.

If a shopkeeper does not pay the money, the criminal organization may strike at him, his property, or his family.

Blackmail is similar to extortion. It is committed when a person obtains money or value by accusing the victim of a crime, threatening the victim with harm or destruction of the victim's property, or threatening to reveal disgraceful facts about the victim.

Gambling and loan-sharking are other traditional activities of organized criminal enterprises. Where gambling is illegal, some organized crime groups act as the locus for gambling activity. In states where some gambling is legal and some gambling is illegal, organized crime groups offer illegal Gaming. Loan-sharking is the provision of loans at illegally high interest rates accompanied by the illegal use of force to collect on past due payments.

In organized crime circles, such loans usually are made to persons who cannot obtain credit at legitimate financial institutions and who can serve the criminal enterprise in some way in the event they are unable to repay the loan. Loan-sharking provides organized criminal enterprises with money and helps enlarge the enterprise by bringing into the fold persons who owe a debt to the enterprise.

Violence often accompanies organized crime. Many crime syndicates use murder, torture, assault, and Terrorism to keep themselves powerful and profitable. The constant threat of violence keeps victims and witnesses silent. Without them, prosecutors find it difficult to press charges against organized criminals.

Despite stringent punishments, organized crime is difficult to eradicate. It tends to occur in large cities where anonymity is relatively easy to maintain. The size and hereditary make up of many enterprises make them capable of surviving the arrest and imprisonment of numerous members.

Many organized crime participants are careful, efficient, and professional criminals, making them difficult to apprehend.

The conclusion is that criminal organizations are increasingly working together, realizing that it is better to work in cooperation rather than in competition with each other. Organized crime is so durable is that the participants are extremely dedicated.

Список використаних джерел

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING AS THE MODERN FORM OF SLAVERY

Human trafficking is a serious social problem because it poses an enormous threat to fundamental human rights – right to life, to free choice, to free movement... Human trafficking as a phenomenon completely disregards any human rights. As a result of growing globalization at different levels, human trafficking has become a global problem. This problem equally hits:

a) Countries in political and economic transition and countries torn by war (we call them also the countries of origin when human trafficking is concerned), and

b) Economically developed countries (which at the same time appear as transit countries and the countries of destination/destination countries).

Although the majority of countries today claim that human rights and freedoms are fully observed there, the phenomenon of slavery has not disappeared yet – it still exists in the 21st Century. Millions of women and children, but also men, are forced into prostitution, domestic service, work on plantations, and begging and other forms of coercion. People are trafficked within the borders of one country (internal human trafficking), but also inter-continentially (transnational human trafficking), and therefore all countries are facing this serious problem.

International organizations possess different data on the number of persons who fall victim to trafficking every year and on the profits generated from this criminal activity:

According to the United Nations, 700,000 women, children and men end up in human trafficking every year.