



## IPI SEMINAR

# TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND THE PALERMO CONVENTION: A REALITY CHECK

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Trygve Lie Center for Peace, Security & Development  
International Peace Institute  
777 UN Plaza, 12th floor  
(Corner of 44th Street and 1st Avenue)

## Global Trends and Developments

Presentation made by **Nick Lewis**, Regional Manager, Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA), *British Embassy*, Washington, D.C.

**PRESENTATION: INTERNATIONAL PEACE INSTITUTE – OCTOBER 6 2010**

**“TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND THE PALERMO CONVENTION: A REALITY CHECK  
- GLOBAL TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS”.**

GOOD MORNING AND THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS SUCH DISTINGUISHED COMPANY. I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SHARE SOME THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT OF “GLOBAL TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME” IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FIRST TEN YEARS OF THE PALERMO CONVENTION.

I HOPE TO SET OUT THIS MORNING HOW SOME OF THE MORE ESTABLISHED ORGANISED CRIME THREATS HAVE CHANGED OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, AND TO EMPHASISE THE DYNAMIC NATURE OF ORGANISED CRIME; THEN TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY HOW THE MECHANICS OF THESE CRIMES HAVE CHANGED OVER THE SAME PERIOD AND HOW ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS HAVE CHANGED THEIR STRUCTURES; AND FINALLY SOME OBSERVATIONS ABOUT HOW WE HAVE CHANGED OUR RESPONSES TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES.

I SHOULD POINT OUT, NOT BY WAY OF APOLOGY, BUT FOR CLARITY, THAT I AM NOT AN ACADEMIC AND MY OBSERVATIONS ARE BASED PURELY ON MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF INVESTIGATING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME IMPACTING ON THE UK.

IT IS QUITE HARD TO DEFINE ORGANISED CRIME IN TERMS OF A PERIOD OF TIME. FOR AS LONG AS WE HAVE DEFINED CRIME, WE HAVE HAD ORGANISED CRIME.

OVER 600 YEARS AGO, THE UK CUSTOMS SERVICE WAS CREATED TO FIGHT SMUGGLERS WHO DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO AVOIDING REVENUE PAYMENTS ON GOODS FROM ABROAD. IF WE WERE TO LOOK AT THE STRUCTURE AND MOTIVATION OF THOSE SMUGGLING OPERATIONS, I'M SURE WE WOULD FIND THAT THEY WERE ***"STRUCTURED GROUPS OF THREE OR MORE PERSONS, EXISTING FOR A PERIOD OF TIME AND ACTING IN CONCERT WITH THE AIM OF COMMITTING ONE OR MORE SERIOUS CRIMES OR OFFENCES... IN ORDER TO OBTAIN, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, A FINANCIAL OR OTHER MATERIAL BENEFIT..."***

(AND I'M SURE YOU WILL ALL HAVE IMMEDIATELY RECOGNISED THE EXTRACT FROM ARTICLE 2 OF THE CONVENTION!)

IN FACT, SMUGGLING STILL EXISTS AS ONE OF THE BIGGEST ORGANISED CRIME ACTIVITIES – HOWEVER WE MODERNISE THE LANGUAGE AND INTELLECTUALISE THE RESPONSE, THE FACT REMAINS THAT BAD GUYS STILL SMUGGLE DRUGS, PEOPLE, GUNS, MONEY AND ANY OTHER COMMODITY IN ORDER TO AVOID DETECTION BY THE AUTHORITIES, AND TO GENERATE WEALTH.

SO WHAT HAS CHANGED OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS?

WELL, DRUGS STILL REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ORGANISED CRIME THREATS. NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IS ASSESSED TO GENERATE UP TO \$1 TRILLION FOR CRIMINALS EVERY YEAR.

AFGHAN HEROIN PRODUCTION GENERATES OVER \$50 BN EVERY YEAR. LAW ENFORCEMENT FOCUS HAS SHIFTED FROM STREET TO SOURCE - THE NUMBER OF HEROIN ADDICTS IN THE

WORLD IS UNKNOWN, BUT EVEN SO-CALLED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE FAILED TO STEM THE FLOW ONTO OUR OWN STREETS.

WHAT HAS CHANGED OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS IS THAT WE CLAIM TO HAVE A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUGE SOCIAL COSTS, AND OF THE DAMAGE TO YOUNG LIVES CAUSED BY THE TRADE.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LEVYING OF TAXES ON DRUG TRAFFICKERS BY ORGANISATIONS LIKE THE TALIBAN BRINGS THE ORGANISED CRIME AND TERRORIST WORLDS FRIGHTENINGLY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER, AND OF THE ARTIFICIAL BOUNDARIES WE SOMETIMES ERECT BETWEEN THEM.

COCAINE TRAFFICKING GENERATES OVER US\$70BN EVERY YEAR, ALMOST \$40BN OF THAT ACCOUNTED FOR IN THE US ALONE.

THE LEVELS OF BRUTALITY AND CRUELTY SHOWN BY MEXICAN DTOs BRING A CHILLING NEW DIMENSION TO THE WORLD OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, NEVER RENOWNED FOR ITS PEACE LOVING AND TOLERANT NATURE.

WE HAVE SEEN THE MIGRATION OF COLOMBIAN, VENEZUELAN AND MEXICAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS TO WEST AFRICA, IN ORDER TO EXPLOIT WEAK REGIMES, AND INCREASE THEIR DISTRIBUTION RANGES.

WHERE TEN YEARS AGO WE THOUGHT WE UNDERSTOOD COCAINE FLOWS, AND WHICH COUNTRIES HAD THE BIGGEST PROBLEM, TODAY WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH RESIGNATION THAT NO COUNTRY IS EXEMPT, AND THAT NEW MARKETS ARE BEING CREATED AND EXPLOITED ALL THE TIME.

NEW SYNTHETIC DRUGS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND EXPERIMENTED WITH, NEW TRAFFICKING ROUTES HAVE BEEN FORGED, AND NEW CRIMINAL INDUSTRIES HAVE BEEN INVENTED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRE-CURSOR SMUGGLING INDUSTRY HAS EMERGED AS A NEW THREAT, ONE WHICH WAS RECOGNISED TEN YEARS AGO, BUT BARELY UNDERSTOOD.

EVEN THE RELATIVELY CONSTANT CANNABIS THREAT HAS MORPHED FROM BEING A FAIRLY BENIGN OUTDOOR CROP GROWN IN WARM CLIMATES, INTO A HUGE UNDERGROUND (SOMETIMES LITERALLY) HYDROPONIC INDUSTRY, CAPABLE OF PRODUCING HIGH YIELD CROPS IN ANY ENVIRONMENT IN ANY COUNTRY. WORSE THAN THAT, THE ACTIVE INGREDIENT IS SO STRONG, MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UK, ARE FACING HUGE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AND A WHOLE NEW DEMOGRAPHIC OF PROBLEM DRUG USERS.

THE CANNABIS MARKET IN THE UK ALONE IS WORTH AROUND \$1.5BN A YEAR.

IN 2000, THE UN ESTIMATED THAT “**...AS MANY AS A MILLION WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE TRAFFICKED EVERY YEAR ACROSS NATIONAL BORDERS BY CRIMINAL GROUPS...**” TODAY WE ESTIMATE THAT FIGURE TO BE MORE THAN **TWO AND A HALF MILLION**.

THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRADE ALONE GENERATES OVER \$20 BILLION IN ILLEGAL REVENUE, AND OF COURSE THAT DOESN'T COME CLOSE TO CALCULATING THE COST IN HUMAN MISERY AND EXPLOITATION, OR THE ULTIMATE COST IN HUMAN LIFE.

BUT THESE ARE NOT NEW THREATS – THESE ARE THE SAME OLD THREATS, CONSTANTLY RE-ENERGISED, AND RE-INVENTED TO KEEP PACE WITH MODERN SOCIETY, AND TO STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF MODERN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

THEFT AND FRAUD IS STILL A HUGE ILLICIT INCOME GENERATOR, AND WE HAVE SEEN A HUGE GROWTH IN SOPHISTICATION OVER TEN YEARS.

IN 2000, NIGERIAN "419" FRAUD WAS LIMITED ONLY BY THE NUMBER OF LETTERS A CRIME GROUP COULD PERSUADE POVERTY STRICKEN VILLAGERS TO WRITE AND SEND. HUNDREDS, OR AT WORST, THOUSANDS COULD BE SENT OUT IN A DAY.

TODAY, THE SAME CRIMINALS USE SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER PROGRAMMES TO PURCHASE "SUCKER LISTS" CONTAINING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF EMAIL ADDRESSES, AND CAN GENERATE MILLIONS OF EMAILS EVERY DAY, PERPETRATING HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT FRAUDS AGAINST THOUSANDS OF DIFFERENT VICTIMS.

ORGANISED FRAUD COSTS THE UK ALONE OVER \$30BN EVERY YEAR.

THAT OF COURSE DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE ARE NO NEW THREATS, BUT IT MAY MEAN THAT WE SHOULD ASK OURSELVES CAREFULLY WHETHER IT IS THE THREATS THAT HAVE CHANGED, OR JUST THE WAY THE CRIMES ARE COMMITTED.

ORGANISED CRIME WILL ALWAYS EXIST, AND CRIMINALS WILL ALWAYS SEEK NEW WAYS OF MAKING MONEY. AND THEY WILL KEEP CHANGING THE WAY THEY DO IT TO KEEP UP WITH CHANGES IN THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENTS.

OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS WE HAVE SEEN VERY DISTINCT CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE GROUPS COMMITTING ORGANISED CRIME. LONG GONE ARE THE STRUCTURED, HIERARCHICAL MAFIA TYPE ORGANISATIONS WITH DEFINED MEMBERSHIP ROLES, RITES OF PASSAGE, PROMOTIONS AND EVEN OVERSEAS POSTINGS.

THEY HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH MUCH FLATTER STRUCTURES, FEWER EMPLOYEES AND MORE RELIANCE ON ALLIANCES AND NETWORKS, MANY OF WHOM ARE LOOSELY AFFILIATED TO EACH OTHER IN A MUCH LESS CONTROLLED SYSTEM.

BUT THESE VERY DESCRIPTIONS DEMAND FURTHER EXPLORATION – WHAT IS AN ORGANISATION? HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM A NETWORK? WHAT IS IT ABOUT ALLIANCES AND NETWORKS THAT MAKES THEM WORK?

THESE ARE QUESTIONS WE ARE ONLY JUST BEGINNING TO RESEARCH AND ANSWER.

WHENEVER I SPEAK AT AN EVENT LIKE THIS, I TRY AND DESCRIBE THIS CHANGE IN THE CONTEXT OF MY OWN OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE.

MY VERY SIMPLE INVESTIGATIONS MODEL ASSUMES THAT AMID ALL THE MANY VARIABLES, THERE ARE FOUR “CONSTANTS” WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO ENABLE ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS TO OPERATE SUCCESSFULLY: LOGISTICS, COMMUNICATIONS, PROFIT AND OPPORTUNITY.

BY LOOKING AT HOW THESE FOUR COMPONENTS HAVE CHANGED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE CAN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THE DYNAMIC NATURE OF THE CHALLENGE, AND TO UNDERSTAND HOW DYNAMIC AND FLEXIBLE THE RESPONSE MUST BE, WHETHER THAT IS AT A TACTICAL LEVEL, OR A STRATEGIC LEVEL.

LOGISTICS IS THE FUNCTION OF PHYSICALLY MOVING SOMETHING FROM A TO B.

CRIME GROUPS NEED LOGISTICS TEAMS TO MOVE THEIR COMMODITIES. THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE A SPECIFIC SERVICE TO A PAYING CUSTOMER. THEY MAY BE BETTER DESCRIBED AS CRIMINAL SERVICE PROVIDERS.

THIS SERVICE OFTEN INVOLVES MOVING SOMETHING OR SOMEONE IN A SERIES OF COMPLICATED AND LENGTHY JOURNEYS ACROSS MANY COUNTRIES. THEY NEED TO MOVE COMMODITIES AND MONEY. THEY NEED TO BRIBE AND CORRUPT PUBLIC OFFICIALS, TO RECRUIT DRIVERS, BOAT CAPTAINS, PILOTS AND OTHER SPECIALISTS. THEY NEED TO SOURCE AND SUPPLY VEHICLES, ACCOMODATION, PASSPORTS AND WEAPONS.

SOME OF THESE LOGISTICS HAVE BEEN MADE EASIER BY GLOBALISATION, CHEAP AIR TRAVEL AND ACCESS TO TRAFFICKING ROUTES THROUGH COUNTRIES ONE INACCESSIBLE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAINS OF THE COMMUNIST EAST.

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN A GROWTH IN THE "OUTSOURCING" OF THIS LOGISTICS WORK, WHICH IN THE OLD STYLE HIERARCHICAL GROUPS WAS TRADITIONALLY DELIVERED "IN HOUSE" BY EMPLOYEES OF THE GROUP, OFTEN JUNIOR WORKERS PROVING THEIR TRUST AND RELIABILITY.

AS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT NET CLOSED AROUND THE CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH AMERICA IN THE 80S AND 90S FOR EXAMPLE, COLOMBIAN CARTELS HANDED OFF WORK TO MEXICAN SERVICE PROVIDERS, CHOOSING TO ACCEPT A LOWER RETURN FOR LESS RISK. AS COLOMBIANS WENT MORE AND MORE "HANDS OFF", LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS HAD TO BECOME INCREASINGLY CUNNING AND SOPHISTICATED TO PROVE GUILTY KNOWLEDGE.



THOSE MEXICAN SERVICE PROVIDERS WENT ON TO BE THE NEXT MAJOR THREAT, IRONICALLY MAINTAINING A MORE HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE THAN THEIR ONE TIME EMPLOYERS, BUT NEVERTHELESS MAINTAINING THEIR STRANGLEHOLD ON THE MOVEMENT OF COLOMBIAN COCAINE TO THE U.S.

IN THE UK AND EUROPE, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS WHO PROVIDE A “NO QUESTIONS ASKED” TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, AVAILABLE TO, AND USED BY A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CRIME GROUPS BUT NOT OWNED OR OPERATED BY ANY OF THEM.

AND THE RISE OF THE CORRUPT PROFESSIONAL HAS SEEN CRIMINALS EMPLOYED AS LAWYERS, ACCOUNTANTS AND REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS WHOSE SOLE FUNCTION IS TO LAUNDER MONEY, AND WHO HAVE NO LEGITIMATE CLIENT BASE WHATSOEVER.

THE SECOND ELEMENT IS COMMUNICATIONS. CRIMINALS MUST BE ABLE TO BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER, AND WITH THEIR CUSTOMERS. THEY CAN ONLY DO THIS IN A LIMITED NUMBER OF WAYS – FACE TO FACE; THROUGH THIRD PARTIES; IN WRITING; BY PHONE OR RADIO; OR BY EMAIL OR SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY.

AS MORE AND MORE COMMODITIES TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD, AND THE LOGISTICS ARE DELIVERED BY MORE AND MORE DISTANT CONTRACTORS, THE PRINCIPALS’ RELIANCE ON COMMUNICATIONS INCREASES AND THIS PRESENTS US WITH THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO DISRUPT.

DENY THE CRIMINALS THEIR COMMUNICATIONS, AND THEIR ENTERPRISE GRINDS TO AN EXPENSIVE HALT.

BUT THINK ABOUT HOW CRIMINAL COMMUNICATIONS HAVE CHANGED OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS.

CUTTING EDGE MOBILE PHONE TECHNOLOGY FROM TEN YEARS AGO WOULD BE A LAUGHING STOCK TODAY. ANALOGUE PHONES CAPABLE OF BEING MONITORED WITH A SCANNER PURCHASED FROM TANDY HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH TOP END 3 AND 4G TECHNOLOGY WITH ENCRYPTED DIGITAL STREAMING, CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING HIGH QUALITY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

TRADITIONAL PC OPERATING SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY SYSTEMS SUCH AS MICROSOFT VISTA, WHICH CAN AUTOMATICALLY ENCRYPT DATA WHEN THE SYSTEM IS LOGGED OFF.

AND COMMERCIAL PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF VOIP AND APPLICATIONS SUCH AS SKYPE HAVE MADE THE CHALLENGE OF 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY INTERCEPTION HARDER THAN SHOULD EVER HAVE BEEN ALLOWED.

THE THIRD ELEMENT IS PROFIT. ORGANISED CRIME GENERATES OBSCENE AMOUNTS OF MONEY.

MUCH OF THIS NEEDS TO BE PHYSICALLY MOVED ACROSS CONTINENTS, LAUNDERED THROUGH THE BANKING SYSTEM AND TURNED INTO OUTWARDLY RESPECTABLE EARNINGS BEFORE IT CAN BE SPENT.

THIS REQUIRES CORRUPT PROFESSIONALS – LAWYERS, ACCOUNTANTS AND REAL ESTATE AGENTS AS WELL AS BANK OFFICIALS, BORDER GUARDS AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS.

IT IS WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TAKING THE MONEY FROM CRIMINALS, WHETHER THAT IS AFTER CONVICTION, OR BY INTERDICTION SOMEWHERE IN THE CHAIN, HAS THE GREATEST IMPACT ON THEM.

BUT AGAIN, THE ENVIRONMENT HAS CHANGED DRASTICALLY. WHILE VAST SUITES OF ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING LEGISLATION HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED ACROSS THE WORLD, MONEY CAN STILL BE TRANSFERRED IN AND OUT OF JURISDICTIONS IN MILLISECONDS.

HUGE QUANTITIES OF MONEY CAN BE REDUCED TO A MAGNETIC STRIP ON AN E-CURRENCY CARD, AND TRANSPORTED AROUND THE WORLD, TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM A BANK OR ATM OF THE CRIMINAL'S CHOICE.

AND IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO KEEP UP WITH PROGRESS, AND USE THE LANGUAGE OF MY KIDS, I WILL CONFIRM THAT AVATARS CAN EVEN CREATE VIRTUAL WEALTH IN PARALLEL EXISTENCES, AND TRADE IT ON EBAY FOR REAL MONEY.

THE FOURTH ELEMENT IS OPPORTUNITY.

SOMETIMES CRIMINALS EXPLOIT AN EXISTING OPPORTUNITY TO COMMIT CRIME, BUT WE SEE MORE AND MORE EVIDENCE THAT THEY ACTUALLY CREATE THE OPPORTUNITY IN THE SAME WAY THAT A STREET LEVEL DRUG DEALER CREATES DEMAND.

THEY WILL MIGRATE TO NEW COUNTRIES TO EXPLOIT THE LACK OF LEGISLATION, POORLY COORDINATED LAW ENFORCEMENT, OR EASILY CORRUPTIBLE GOVERNMENTS, OR TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION.

THEY WILL RESEARCH AND EXPLOIT CHANGING TECHNOLOGY TO THEIR ADVANTAGE – THE PAEDOPHILE PREDATOR DOES NOT NEED TO HANG AROUND THE SCHOOL GATES ANY LONGER – HIS MOST PERVERSE FANTASIES ARE ALL AVAILABLE AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON ON A \$200 LAPTOP.

AND THE INNOCENT LOOKING WAITER WHO SERVED YOU BREAKFAST THIS MORNING, COULD BY NOW HAVE SOLD YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS TO A THOUSAND DIFFERENT CRIMINALS, AND EMPTIED YOUR BANK ACCOUNT.

LET US NOT FORGET THAT THESE ARE ENTREPRENEURS, RESOURCEFUL AND ENTERPRISING INDIVIDUALS ALWAYS ON THE LOOK OUT FOR A NEW WAY OF MAKING MONEY.

TEN YEARS AGO FOR EXAMPLE, VERY FEW CRIMES WERE COMMITTED THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF CYBER. I CLEARLY REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I ENCOUNTERED A KIDNAPPER WHO SENT HIS RANSOM DEMAND BY TEXT MESSAGE, AND CONDUCTED HIS ENTIRE NEGOTIATION IN THE SAME WAY; AND THE FIRST TIME I INVESTIGATED AN EXTORTION ATTEMPT WHERE THE THREAT WAS A CYBER ATTACK ON A COMPANY'S COMPUTER SYSTEM.

BEFORE THE RISE OF CYBERCRIME, THE MAN IN THE STREET FELT LARGELY UNTOUCHED BY ORGANISED CRIME. IT WAS BY DEFINITION AN "UNDERWORLD" ACTIVITY, AND RARELY TOUCHED ORDINARY LIVES.

IN RECENT YEARS THOUGH, THE HOME COMPUTER HAS ENABLED CRIMINALS TO DELIVER CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, FRAUD AND EXTORTION INTO THE HEART OF BILLIONS OF FAMILY HOMES.

AS THE WORLD HAS BECOME SMALLER, OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMIT INTERNATIONAL CRIMES HAVE BECOME GREATER. ENHANCED MEDIA COVERAGE OF GLOBAL DISASTERS TELLS THE CRIMINAL ENTREPRENEUR WHERE THE NEXT BATCH OF VULNERABLE VICTIMS IS LOCATED, AND WHERE THE NEXT BATCH OF INTERNATIONAL AID MONEY IS GOING.

ORGANISED CRIME ACTIVITY IS KNOWN TO HAVE INCREASED IN SRI LANKA, HAITI AND EVEN CLOSER TO HERE IN NEW ORLEANS FOLLOWING NATURAL DISASTERS IN THOSE PLACES.

INDEED, THE INTERNATIONAL AID PROGRAMME ITSELF IS TARGETTED NOT JUST BY TRADITIONAL CRIMINAL TYPES, BUT BY CORRUPT GOVERNMENT FIGURES, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND AID WORKERS UNABLE TO RESIST THE TEMPTATIONS PRESENTED BY BILLIONS OF CASH DOLLARS, AND STAGGERED BY THE POOR CONTROLS AND AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS THAT FOLLOW IT.

THIS CORRUPTION LEADS TO ALLIANCES BETWEEN CRIMINAL GROUPS AND POLITICIANS – INDEED SOMETIMES THEY ARE SYNONYMOUS – WHICH IN TURN LEADS TO LEGAL AND POLITICAL PROCESSES BEING UNDERMINED BY CRIMINALS. ONE SMALL STEP AWAY FROM FAILING STATES, CIVIL WAR OR INSURGENCY.

PERHAPS THE MOST INTERESTING DIMENSION OF THIS DEBATE IS HOW THE RESPONSE TO TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME HAS CHANGED OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE CONVENTION WAS SIGNED IN THE YEAR 2000. IT REPRESENTED THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF POSITIVE STEPS TO UNDERSTAND AND QUANTIFY THE THREAT FROM TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME, AND TO HARNESS THE COMMITMENT OF THE WORLD'S GOVERNMENTS TO A JOINED UP RESPONSE.

THAT WAS BEFORE THE WORLD CHANGED FOREVER.

THE EVENTS OF 9/11 CAUSED THE WORLD TO CHANGE ITS FOCUS. THE HORROR OF THAT DAY WAS FELT ACROSS THE GLOBE, AND GOVERNMENTS SAT UP AND TOOK STOCK - SUCH AN EVENT MUST NEVER BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN AGAIN.

THE NEW PRIORITY, LITERALLY OVERNIGHT, WAS COUNTER TERRORISM. NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD ASSESSED THEIR ABILITY TO RESPOND TO A TERRORIST ATROCITY, AND REDIRECTED HUGE AMOUNTS OF THE PUBLIC PURSE TO SHORING UP INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY AND DEFENDING THE HOMELAND.

THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME TOOK SECOND PLACE, AND STAYED THERE. SOME NATIONS SEEMED TO SUSPEND THEIR STRATEGIES FOR TACKLE TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME, LITERALLY PUTTING THEM TO ONE SIDE AND IGNORING THEM FOR MANY YEARS.

THE PLAN HAS BROADLY WORKED. THERE HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY FEW TERRORIST ATROCITIES SINCE THEN, AND THOSE THAT HAVE HAVE THANKFULLY CLAIMED FAR FEWER LIVES THAN 9/11.

BUT DEATHS ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORGANISED CRIME HAVE CONTINUED. EVERY SINGLE DAY, IN STREETS AND HOMES ACROSS OUR COUNTRIES, OUR CITIZENS DIE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF ORGANISED CRIME ACTIVITIES.

ONLY VERY RECENTLY HAVE GOVERNMENTS STARTED TO LOOK AGAIN AT THE RESPONSE TO THIS PROBLEM.

INCREASINGLY, GOVERNMENTS ARE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ORGANISED CRIME IS A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT, AND ARE DEALING WITH IT AS SUCH.

STRATEGIES ARE BEING REFRESHED, ASSESSMENTS ARE BEING WRITTEN, AND RESPONSES ARE BEING CONSIDERED.

SOME COUNTRIES ARE EVEN ABLE TO DEVOTE RESOURCES AND REVENUE TO THE PROBLEM. THE MAJORITY OF OUR NATIONS HOWEVER ARE FACING SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

IN A CLIMATE OF AUSTERITY, CHOICES MUST BE MADE.

IN OUR WORLD, THE CHOICE IS OFTEN BETWEEN ORGANISED CRIME AND TERRORISM, AND FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, TERRORISM WILL ALWAYS WIN.

OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, MANY OF US HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO FIGHT ORGANISED CRIME. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM HAS EVOLVED AND MATURED.

WE HAVE BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOLUTION DOES NOT REST WITHIN THE GIFT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.

ORGANISED CRIME EFFECTS EVERY DEPARTMENT OF EVERY GOVERNMENT OF EVERY NATION – HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT, FOREIGN POLICY – AND THE LIST GOES ON.

WE HAVE SLOWLY COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE ONLY EFFECTIVE RESPONSE IS ONE WHICH CUTS ACROSS ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS; AND IDEALLY ONE WHICH BRINGS PARTNER NATIONS TOGETHER IN COLLABORATIVE EFFORT FOR THE COMMON GOOD. ONLY A WHOLE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE CAN MARSHALL THE NATIONAL RESOURCES NECESSARY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

AND ONLY COLLABORATION BETWEEN NATIONS AND STATES CAN CHOREOGRAPH THOSE NATIONAL RESPONSES INTO AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT – ONE WHICH JOINS FORCES ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES TO PRESENT A UNIFIED DEFENCE, ONE WHICH WILL BE SEEN AS A THREAT BY THE CRIMINALS, AND ONE WHICH WILL DENY THEM SAFE HAVENS, PROTECTION OR AN OPERATING ENVIRONMENT.

IF THE PAST TEN YEARS HAS SEEN ORGANISED CRIME THE POOR RELATION TO COUNTER TERRORISM, LET US ENSURE THAT THE NEXT TEN YEARS IS SPENT ENSURING THAT OUR FUTURE RESPONSE PROPERLY MATCHES THE THREAT, AND THAT WE WORK TOGETHER TO DELIVER A TRULY GLOBAL RESPONSE TO A TRULY GLOBAL PROBLEM.

THANK YOU.