



CalsMUN 2020
Historical Influences



Research Report

Forum: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Issue: Implementing measures to tackle corruption and organised crime in politics

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Personal Introduction

Louisa Handel-Mazzetti

Hi everyone! I'm Louisa, a 17-year-old student at Utrecht University where I study History and International Relations. Some of you might recognize me from previous MUNs or CalsMUN 2019 where I was deputy Secretary General. In my free time I try to do as much as possible. I currently work in a political organization and am doing an internship in the Eerste Kamer for the same party. Next to that, I try to do as much MUNs as possible.



Not only are these highly interesting, they also provide me with a lot of new friends and also experience that companies like a lot ;).

The CCPCJ has topics that are very close to my heart. Firstly, corruption and organized crime in politics. Politics is very important to me and I hate the thought that democratic principles are endangered by the corrupting of minds by false promises. Secondly, wildlife trafficking and trade. I believe that this is important to everyone, since our biosphere is the most important to all of us. Like corruption, the trafficking of wildlife happens due to the corrupting of minds by empty promises.

All of this is so serious, but in general I'm not too serious. You can come to me for weird vine references whenever you want.

I hope to see you all in January and enjoy fruitful debates about your great resolutions!

Deepshikha Dey

Hello! My name is Deepshikha Dey and I am 18 years old. I currently study Economics and Business Economics at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Last year I graduated from Cals College, but I am not quite ready to let go of CalsMUN. I am very excited to attend already the fifth conference! I have been to every single CalsMUN as an admin, delegate and two time organizer. In order to make my list complete, I will be your deputy chair this year. I am looking forward to watching you debate and see what kind of solutions you will come up with. This should not be too difficult with our two very interesting topics.





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At previous CalsMUN's, I have seen many first-time delegates and I therefore expect a lot of you this year as well. I want all of you to know that Louisa and I will always be there to help you out and answer all of your questions!

Seeing as Louisa has claimed the Vine references, you can always come to me for TikTok references ☺.

See you in January !!!!!!!!! <3



Introduction

In recent decades, greater attention has been paid to the capacity of organized crime to corrupt political systems, chiefly by pouring illicit money into political campaigns and institutions. Conflict and weak governance enable such networks to engage in political corruption. If not properly addressed, the increasing number and intensity of global conflicts and the democratic backsliding seen in recent years are likely to negatively affect efforts to tackle political corruption linked to organized crime.

The Committee

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was established by ECOSOC as one of its commissions. The commission acts as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. ECOSOC provided mandates and priorities which included improving international action to combat national and transnational crime and the efficiency and fairness of criminal administration systems. The CCPCJ is the preparatory body of the United Nations Crime Congresses.

General Overview

One of the most important things that causes weak regimes due to corruption or links to organized crime, is the democratic establishment. Good governance does not necessarily ensure an absence of organized crime, poor governance creates opportunities for it to flourish. Ungoverned spaces, corruption and weak rule of law enable organized crime to finance and develop its operations. The informal and illicit markets that emerge in the absence of a strong formal sector can provide livelihoods in the short term but empower criminal networks and undermine state authority in the long term.

Given the secretive nature of both corruption and organised crime, it is hard to define the link between both. However, evidence tends to confirm that there is a deep link between organised crime, politics and the public sector. Criminal organisations need legitimate state structures in order to sustain and expand their activities. In most countries, corruption of public officials, including law enforcement and court officers, is a common feature of organised crime that allows criminal organisations to secure survival and minimise the risk of being arrested and prosecuted. Corrupt police officials may turn a blind eye on illicit activities, pass information on police investigations and planned raids or conduct flawed prosecutions.



Bribery of custom officials and border police officers are also a common feature of trans-border organised crime networks. This included smuggling of drugs, arms, stolen vehicles, cigarettes and human beings which is often facilitated by widespread corruption, weak states and governance structures and reliance on political influence. A lot of this is often seen in countries where the established democracy is weak or is a victim of a weak economic situation. Countries in Africa and Eastern Europe often see cases of organised crime and political activity.

There are specific links between organised crime and corruption:

- The degree of economic freedom is negatively correlated with organised crime. Also, the effectiveness of the state in fighting monopolistic practices. Lastly, consolidation of democracy also appears to impede the growth of organised crime.
- Lack of a private sector governance is positively correlated to the growth of organised crime. This means that in countries with low regulatory standards applied to banks, the organised crime increases.
- The effectiveness of criminal justice systems also negatively correlates with organised crime. The level of organised crime is lower in countries where the conviction rates per crime committed are higher.
- Buying protection from the state is a necessary condition for the growth of organised crime. Higher levels of political interference in the appointment, dismissal and promotion of civil servants is also correlated with an increase of organised criminal activity.
- The most important predictor of the extent of organised crime is independence and integrity of the judiciary. Independent judges are less vulnerable to corruption and better able to implement repressive action against organised crime.

In almost every country there is historical evidence of organised crime that is linked to a corrupt government. In other countries, there still is an active corrupt regime that is controlled by organised crime. Think of countries in eastern Europe, Africa of even Italy or Greece. All in all, political and administrative corruption seems to be the most common and problematic. Next to that, law-enforcement institutions are most directly affected by pressure from organised crime. Another key factor determining the influence of organised crime is the



effectiveness of Internal Affairs Units. Other historical traditions like mass smuggling could also increase the level of organised crime in a country.

Possible Solutions

- The development of an independent corruption monitoring mechanism
- Developing a network of independent information analysts
- Develop detailed guidelines to encompass a broad range of criminal offenses under the definition of corruption
- Improve cooperation and increase the amounts of information being shared concerning corruption
- Increase awareness under civilians of the consequences of corrupt regimes
- Increase awareness under civilians in order to keep them from joining organised crime

Bibliography and Further Reading

<https://www.u4.no/publications/organised-crime-and-corruption/>

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