



Protecting individuals from getting involved with organized crime



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Introduction

Organized crime has existed since the beginning of human civilizations, where criminals stole produce from vendors, however in the modern day, crime has much changed to become of much larger scale and consequences. Many individuals start with crime as youngsters, however others begin committing crime later in their lives by getting involved due to various reasons. In order to understand this topic, it is primarily crucial to understand what organized crime is and how it has evolved into the one we see in the modern day. The main objective to understand is how individuals become involved in organized crime and therefore how we can prevent these individuals from getting involved in it, which is the topic that this research report will explore.

The definition of organized crime is a set of highly organized actions created in order to carry out illegal activities, these activities range anywhere from theft to murder to the selling of drugs ("Organized Crime"). The first account of organized crime occurred around 5000 years ago. However, organized crime has especially grown in the last 2 centuries, due to the many new means of organizing crime, and the many benefits that criminals can get from their crimes, if they are not found. Throughout the world more than 83% of individuals live in areas that are at high risk of crime, and have high criminality rates ("The Global"). This number has been increasing from 2021, which is very alarming due to the exposure that many have to organized crime ("The Global"). At times, exposure can mean involvement, and most of the time it does, causing the number of organized crimes to increase recently. For example, in 2022, in the Netherlands, there were a total of around 797,000 crimes, 343,000 of which were organized, which was much larger than in 2021 ("Crime in the Netherlands"). It is important to note however, that the majority of organized crime is unknown, or those criminals who commit it cannot be found. For this reason, while any statistics mentioned in the research report are useful, they do not provide the full picture of organized crime, since much of it is done secretly ("Organized Crime"). Organized crime is much more concealed than

other types of crimes, due to its planning out and high efforts from those committing them, to conceal them. While there are many types of organized crime, one of the most known types is the finding/creating and then distributing and selling of illegal products such as drugs, weaponry, counterfeit goods, all types of smuggling, and many more ("Organized Crime"). The most difficult aspect of organized crime for those wishing to get rid of it, is that it is so well protected, that with even the slightest hint of someone looking for them, criminals relocate to new places/countries meaning that law enforcement individuals cannot find them, due to a lack of jurisdiction ("Organized Crime"). There are however international efforts that can be made to reduce organized crime by not finding but preventing individuals from getting involved in it. These solutions and an explanation of the topic at hand will be provided in this research report.

Definition of Key Terms

Assault

An attack on a specific person or individual which is violent and causes them significant harm ("Assault")

Counterfeit

A product that is not original however is made to look so, in order to be sold (this action is illegal) ("Counterfeit")

Death Penalty

The punishment of death after committing a crime (legal in some nations across the world e.g. The People's Republic of China ("Death Penalty"))

Ethnicity

A large group of people with shared culture, language, and traditions, causing the people belonging in these groups to have a bond ("Ethnicity")

Faith

A large trust and belief in something e.g. trust in a certain person to do well in a basketball match ("Faith")

Gang

A group of young people, who spend time with each other, often fighting with other groups and at times committing illegal actions ("Gang")

Incarceration

The act of putting someone into prison and keeping them there until their prison sentence has ended ("Incarceration")

Mafia

A group of people which are involved in a certain area of organized crime (mafias first started in Sicily in Italy however are active around the world today) ("Mafia")

Money Laundering

The act of moving money that has been illegally obtained to one's bank, to pretend as if this money was obtained legally ("Money Laundering")

Organized Crime

A set of highly organized actions created in order to carry out illegal activities, these activities range anywhere from theft to murder to the selling of drugs ("Organized Crime")

Protection

The state of being safe due to the actions of another government, person, or group of individuals ("Protection")

Smuggling

The process committed by a certain person/group of individuals of moving people or goods from one nation to another secretly (in most cases also illegally) ("Smuggling")

Trafficking

The act of selling/buying illegal goods or making money off of the work that one forces others to do ("Trafficking")

Victim

A person who has been either injured, killed, or has suffered as a cause of the actions of someone else (a perpetrator) ("Victim")

General Overview

Worldwide, almost every single person has been affected by crime at some point in their life, whether they were a victim of it or saw it occurring. No matter how much governments intervene, it is impossible to fully prevent crime and for this reason it is better to prevent individuals from getting involved in it. The main cause in general are the benefits that those individuals involved in crime may see mainly a variety of economic benefits (Srivastava). There are of course other reasons for why individuals are involved in crime, which will be mentioned later, but economic benefits are the main one (Srivastava). Especially with technology, organized crime is getting cheaper to commit and therefore brings in more economic benefits (Srivastava). While there may be benefits to committing organized crime in one perspective, another perspective is all the consequences an individual must experience, which is why it is important to prevent individuals from getting involved in organized crime, for their own safety. It is important to understand the reasons for why organized crime occurs, how it functions, and the consequences to those who are involved in it. These are all discussed below;

Why individuals get involved in organized crime

While it has been established that finances are a large part of why people get involved in organized crime, there are many others that have not yet been mentioned. There are many motivations that someone may have to get involved in organized crime including; family ties, ethnic similarities, similar social circles, and work ties (INTERPOL). Especially with family ties, individuals get involved in the 'family business' one could say (INTERPOL). This means that many people get involved in organized crime through being born into their families group that commits organized crime (INTERPOL). Within a family, the relationships are often tight, meaning that there are often unbreakable bonds created between members of the family that are part of organized crime, which promotes "devotion and loyalty" (INTERPOL). Ethnic similarities between criminals can lead to groups being formed, when these ethnically similar criminals meet. Initially, these criminals work on their own, however after meeting, create a group that then carries out organized crimes. This is explored in the next section of this General Overview (*Wikipedia*). Similar social circles between those involved and not involved in organized crime can cause a sort of "snowball effect", where the

moment one individual gets involved in the organized crime, other start to join in at exponential rates, at times due to the fear of missing out or due to the benefits that crime may bring with it for those individuals doing it (Kleemans and Koppen). Lastly, work ties work similar to those social ties. Here, those who are involved in organized crime meet or seek out individuals to do specific work for them, and they therefore get 'recruited' to the organized crime institution. They often do jobs that are more risky, which others don't wish to do, in case of getting caught (Kleemans and Koppen). All of these listed reasons are motivations for getting involved in organized crime.

How organized crime functions

While on a basic level organized crime functions like any other crime, when one plans to commit a crime/do something illegal, and then carries this plan out. The difference in organized crime is that it is on a much larger scale, and for example, theft on a regular crime versus organized crime could be someone stealing a car versus repeatedly stealing paintings from a museum. In this sense, the effects of organized crime on civilians and governments are much larger. If one investigates organized crime deeper, this becomes clearer. It is important to note that the majority of organized crime involves many different types of criminal activity over an array of countries. The main activities that organized crime is involved in are, "trafficking in people, drugs, illicit goods and weapons, armed/cyber robbery, counterfeiting, and money laundering" (INTERPOL).

There are of course many methods in which organized crime can occur, however the main three processes are; Organizational, Individual difference, and the Multi-Model approach (*Wikipedia*). Each one of these approaches functions very differently so it is important to understand all of them starting with the organizational approach to organized crime. This approach indicates that the group committing the organized crime has a structure within itself (*Wikipedia*). These structures can either be; in a hierarchy, with one person have full control over and leading the whole group (these people are known as the leader within their group), in a patron-client relationship, where there is a smaller group within the criminal organization that is tightly knit, and all of which are authority figures of the criminal organization, or lastly in a youth/street gangs which vary in organization, with some being hierarchical and others not really having an organized structure within the gangs (*Wikipedia*). The key to the organizational approach of organized crime is that there is a key group/leader that other people within the organized crime unit follow, and learn from. The idea of this type of structure is that with more people, one can spread out your network and since people within the network will not (or should not) betray their leader/s once caught, meaning that the network continues to run without disruption. The next approach to organized crime is individual

difference (*Wikipedia*). Oppositely to the organizational approach, individual difference is not committed by an organization/group/gang, but rather one individual (*Wikipedia*). The main idea of this approach is that the individual does what can gain them the most amount of benefits, without regard to any other criminal organizations (*Wikipedia*). While this makes this approach run on a much smaller scale than other organized crime, at an individual level, the criminal is able to gain the most benefits, if their plans go right, however also the most consequences, if their plans go wrong (*Wikipedia*). Lastly, the Multi-Model approach, which is a mix of the two approaches discussed previously (*Wikipedia*). The multi-model approach runs on the idea that culture or ethnicity provide a mechanism for individual criminals to meet and gain trust in each other, ultimately leading to a formation of a group of organized crime (*Wikipedia*). This is not like the organizational approach, as the organizational approach is made up of an existing group that seeks out members, while the multi-model approach creates a crime group by opportunity (*Wikipedia*). Most commonly, the multi-model approach is mainly used within national/city-wide mafias, an example being the Sicilian Mafia, which functions within the city of Sicily in Italy (*Wikipedia*). This approach has been around the longest, ever since the 17th or 18th century when the first national mafias formed (*Wikipedia*).

All of these approaches discussed are different, however they all have the same goal, to build a network/array of actions that can lead to organized crime, whether that crime is continuous and worldwide or a one-time crime and national. While they all may have a somewhat different structure, they all have the same goal, to gain as many benefits for themselves as possible, which is important to keep in mind.

Consequences for those involved in organized crime

After discussing organized crime previously, it is clear that those involved in such crimes are punished in society, in various ways. Ultimately, organized crime does not, however, only affect those who do it, it can also affect whole cities and nations, depending on the crime committed. For this reason, it is understandable that those involved in organized crime are punished by nations, all the more reason to prevent individual involvement in organized crime. The main consequence that those who commit organized crime face is incarceration ("How organized"). In more severe cases, those individuals may also face death, if they are caught in a nation where the death penalty is allowed. In this case, individuals experience prison, which despite its recent development, are still in harsh human conditions where individuals are at times treated like animals, and even assaulted ("How organized"). If one does not receive incarceration then one may receive the death penalty, which may be argued is worse than incarceration for a certain period of time. In most cases, only

those most involved in organized crime receive the toughest penalties and sentences, however this does not distract from the fact that all individuals involved in organized crime, if found, will receive a sentence of a period of incarceration ("How organized"). Not only does this full social isolation affect individuals, however, it can also affect their loved ones and friends, all the more reason to prevent individuals from getting involved in organized crime ("How organized"). Furthermore, committing organized crime and being around those who commit it can in some instances lead to mental illnesses and in the worst cases suicide, due to the guilt that some may feel for their actions ("How organized").

While organized crime affects those who do it, it also affects the societies and populations where it occurs by creating fear, and financial impacts on individuals. When populations witness organized crime in their communities, they may feel unsafe, and especially when the crime affects them, their finances or other valuables at times even their lives may be taken from them ("How organized"). However, organized crime also affects governments by for example reducing the faith that citizens have in their governments, causing changes in political parties ("Transnational organized"). Other impacts on a nationwide level include enhanced slavery, operations and goods on the black market (which lead to legal medical operations for example to not develop and can even cause those who are operated on to be severely negatively affected), and further impacts on the economy (due to the amount of money that is unaccounted for which can cause inflation) ("Transnational organized"). For all these reasons and the reasons listed above it is crucial that individuals are prevented from getting involved in organized crime, as this is the easiest and most effective way to minimize the amount of organized crime we see in our societies today.

Timeline of Key Events

Date	Event
2014	The EU Cybersecurity Act established a framework to enhance the EU's cybersecurity resilience and response. It further strengthened ENISA's role. Introduced a certification framework for products and services.
2017	China implemented its National Cybersecurity Law which encompasses legislation aimed at safeguarding its cyberspace. It emphasizes aspects such as data localization, user privacy protection and regulation of information infrastructure.

2019 The USA Cybersecurity Enhancement Act was enacted to improve and strengthen the nation's cybersecurity posture. It focuses on fostering partnerships between private sectors while promoting information sharing.

Major Parties Involved

China

With its capabilities it holds a significant position in the cyber domain. Discussions around China's involvement in cybersecurity often revolve around measures well as allegations of state sponsored cyber activities.

The European Union Agency, for Cybersecurity (ENISA)

It has a role in promoting collaboration among member states of the European Union to strengthen cybersecurity resilience. Given the interconnected infrastructure within the EU it highlights the significance of efforts in ensuring cybersecurity.

United States Cyber Command (USCC)

Reason for Involvement; The USCC actively participates in cybersecurity defense efforts. Plays a leading role internationally in combating cyber threats. Given the United States position, as a global technology leader ensuring cyberspace security holds importance.

Possible Solutions

As previously explained, one of the largest issues with current organized crime is the fact that it is growing due to more and more individuals getting involved in it. While nations are aiming to reduce organized crime, they have not been focusing on preventing individuals from getting involved in it, but rather stopping crime that already exists. While this is the traditional method, it does not stop crime from growing, as many crimes cannot be detected and therefore cannot be shut down. For this reason, when writing a resolution, it is important that delegates focus on the pretext to how organized crime comes about, and preventing this, rather than stopping organized crime in general, as this is a large task that realistically cannot be achieved ("Transnational organized"). Some means in which individuals can be protected from getting involved in organized crime include; spreading awareness about how one gets involved in organized crime, informing individuals on how organized

crime works and affects their daily lives, and encouraging individuals to express any concerns with environments around them they believe to be unsafe, and lastly, speaking/informing those individuals who live in high crime areas about how one gets involved in organized crime and therefore how to prevent it ("Transnational organized"). These are all highly effective methods from preventing individuals from getting involved, primarily as through governments spreading awareness and talking about the issue of organized crime, it is not as misunderstood and therefore, individuals are more likely to know when someone is preparing to involve them in organized crime, and how to prevent this from happening ("Transnational organized").

There are also other means of preventing organized crime, however these are not up to individual action but rather the nation's responsibilities. These solutions provide means of stopping organized crime that already exists, and while not as effective as preventing individuals from getting involved in organized crime, it is still necessary to minimize the amount of organized crime present in our societies today. Some of these solutions include; working globally to identify and investigate those behind the most serious and negatively affecting organized crimes, further protection of technology to prevent large cyberattacks, and lastly, aid to developing countries in their law enforcement programs to counter organized crime threats in the most at-risk areas ("Transnational organized"). Delegates must note that the ideas mentioned above are only a starting point for their resolutions, and are encouraged to do further individual research to think of more possible solutions for the issue at hand, and elaborate on these solutions.

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