

**Forum:** Special Conference on Crime and Punishment Sub-commission 1

**Issue:** The question of links between international terrorism and organized crime

**Student Officers:** Holly Morgan, Leah Wiednmann, Stephan Capriles

**Position:** Assistant Presidents of Special Conference Sub-commission 1

---

## Introduction

We fear terrorism and the threat it presents, oftentimes oblivious to its definition. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly defines terrorism as "criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes" and further declares these purposes as "in any circumstance unjustifiable whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify them." Terrorism has the power to evoke mass fear through violence and the threat of potential violence. Criminal acts of this sort present a severe threat not only to internal and external security, but also obstruct positive relations between Member States and the progression and expansion of democracy. It is essential that all Member States work side by side to bring individuals guilty of organizing or sponsoring terrorist acts to justice in accordance with international law and thus human rights declarations and conventions.

When compared to the terrorism, organized crime seems to present a far less globally threatening issue and their connection to one another is not obvious. However, terrorist groups only gain access to weapons or even weapons of mass destruction through criminal organizations. Furthermore, corruption and bribery within governments further enables the development of terrorist groups through organized crime. This following report will exemplify this connection and underline the necessity of collaborative efforts to combat the issue at hand.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Links

A link between two types of crime specifically, can mean multiple things. Links are defined as connections, similarities, and associations. In terms of the link between organized crime and

international terrorism, the link is corruption between both forms of criminal activity and the result of both being poverty in the nation it operates in. For example, the aforementioned situation of crime leaving the government's resources undermined and damaged- which leads to famine and lack of enough goods to ship out for profit to the nation.

## **Corruption**

Corruption is defined by the United Nations as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain”.

Corruption is approachable in many different aspects and degrees such as “minor use of influence to institutionalized bribery”. Transparency International has defined corruption as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain”. Not only does gain refer to monetary funds, it can also refer to gain of power or credibility.

## **International Crime**

The definition of international is of that which pertains to at least two or more countries/nations. This term can refer to external commerce, international trade, international waters, international agreements, international affairs, and many more. International crime in specific can refer to crime against international law, against humanity, against peace, and war crimes.

## **Terrorism**

The United Nations does not have a unanimous decision at this point for the definition of terrorism. It has been defined as “the systematic use of terror especially as a means of coercion”. The Terrorism Research Center defines terrorism as “tactic and strategy”, a “crime and a holy duty”, “a justified reaction to oppression and an inexcusable abomination”. The center is basically trying to convey the message that terrorism can be seen in different perspectives by different people- some find it justified, some find it “inexcusable”. The main aspects that are universal and cannot be ignored are:

1. Terrorism is an act of violence or strong protest involving force
2. Most acts of terrorism violate human rights laws
3. Most terrorism acts are acts of elite groups, guerilla organizations, and usually oppose against the present political party

## **Background Information**

Organized Crime is not a new phenomenon, it dates back to ancient Egypt and the raider who would invade the pharaoh's tomb . However in our current day and age, we experience both the gifts and curses of globalization. The internationalization of crime has created the need to reevaluate the methods of prevention of organized crime and terrorism. Many believe that there is a strong correlation between

organized crime and terrorism. While at the same time the more skeptical believe that there is only a small group which is constantly referred to. Examining both phenomena at the same time is key to understanding if there is a relationship between the two.

Organized crime focuses generally on the economic profit that can be acquired from the market of selling a certain product, while terrorism is motivated by ideological aims and the determination for political change. Both Organized Crime and terrorism are however motivated to some extent by money. It would make sense to infer that a collaboration between them would be very advantageous. Organized crime seeks capital and terrorism needs it.

### **Organized Crime, terrorism and poverty**

Organized crime groups generates poverty by undermining the government's resources by diverting them from one sector to strengthening another (the law enforcement sector) . As services become more and more expensive, individuals can no longer afford them. Growing socio-economic inequality has led to the loss of confidence in public institutions, creating a constant circle of poverty and corruption. International criminal organizations damage the ability of legal businesses to compete. These organizations are involved in bribery, violence, fraud, corrupt alliances with states to gain the upper hand. Lesser economically developed countries are especially prone to the hazards that organized crime creates. Where there is weak enforcement, corruption and a lack of transparency the perfect breeding grounds for powerful and influential criminal organizations to emerge. An underclass of young men, often racial minorities, only option out of this kind of despair and poverty is through crime.

Many blame terrorism because of the harsh colonialism and imperialism imposed by more economically developed countries during history. The suppression of their culture for such an extended period of time was bound to create a cataclysmic explosion at one point. Imperialism left lingering hatred in many individuals and countries. It is also noted that once governments were no longer bound to their colonizers many suffered extreme hardships: socially, economically, and politically. These hardships have created the perfect environment for fundamentalists. The extreme poverty some of these nations led some to terrorism, as a means to return to a more stable time. However other studies disregard the economic factors and say that the amount political freedoms experienced by these individuals from moving from an autocratic regime to a more liberal political environment, especially when the political instability is elevated, the conditions to resort to terrorism are higher.

### **The Aftermath of September 11, 2001**

The September 11, 2001 attacks, also known as 9/11, was one of the greatest exhibitions of the dangers of terrorist groups. The attack was not the first terrorist attack the world had seen, but was an attack of great magnitude. 4 commercial airlines were hijacked by a terrorist organization with the intention of crashing into US landmarks. During the event nearly 3,000 people died. Al-Qaeda, a militant fundamentalist Islamic group founded in the 1980s to combat soviets in Afghanistan, claimed

responsibility for this attack President Bush soon announced that he would begin the “War on Terror” where he promised that the US would take great strides in protecting Americans from the threat of Terrorists. Not long after this the United Nations Security Council would establish the Counter-Terrorism committee. Resolution 1373 called for steps to be taken to prevent terrorism through the implementation of national legislative measures. These measures include criminalizing the finance of terrorism, freezing the funds related to persons involved in acts of terrorism, cooperate with other governments in the investigation, arrest, extradition, prosecution of those involved in such acts, and bring said individuals to justice. This resolution was essential because it opened up new questions about terrorism, especially the finances supporting terrorism. One of clauses in this resolution noted the close relationship between “international terrorism and transitional organized crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms-trafficking, and illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials.” It is however unclear what this close connection is and whether or not it exists. The Security Council later adopted resolution 1624 (2005) where they called on member states to prohibit by international granting anyone one safe haven who is suspected to be involved in terrorist activities.

## Corruption

Corruption is a manifestation of the institutional weaknesses, perverted incentives and inadequate enforcement and funding. There is with out a doubt a strong correlation between terrorism and corruption as well as organized crime and corruption. Corruption seems to fuel both of these exploits and makes tackling the problem even harder, because it means that even more obstacles need to be overcome to tackle these issues. When corrupt officials drain the resources of a country they deny their citizens basic services and rights because of self interest. It also makes protecting these citizens increasingly more difficult. Corruption drives transitional crime and terrorist activities, neither of their activities could take place with out the involvement of a corrupt public officials. Corruption therefore threatens security and damages the international system. Even more disturbing is the fact that corruption can compromise an entire worldwide investigation, meaning that countless resources and man hours are wasted. Corruption does not directly produce poverty but the elimination of corruption leads to economic growth and good governance which is essential to creating a stable environment where violent extremist behavior is limited and crime can be better regulated.

## Major Countries and Organizations Involved

### Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

The FBI started off as and organization created by Attorney General Charles Bonaparte under President Roosevelt as a force of Special Agents in 1908. The organization has since then grown and become a prominent force in the United States. The organization strives to protect and defend the US from any and all terrorist and foreign intelligence and to uphold and enforce the law of the United States.

One of the priorities of the organization is to combat transnational and national criminal organizations and enterprises. The Organized Crime section at FBI headquarters is divided into three units. Each of these units deals with a specific regions (Italy, Eurasian and Middle Eastern, and Asian and African) and work in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies and governments to combat organized crime. The top priority of the organization however, is protecting the U.S. from terrorist attacks. The Counterterrorism division has been heavily funded ever since the September, 11 attacks.

### **European Police Office (EUROPOL)**

The European Police office is the European Union's criminal intelligence agency. The organization's headquarters are in The Hague, The Netherlands and works very closely with all members of the European Union and maintains positive cooperative relations with other states such as Australia, Canada, the USA and Norway. The organization has no direct power of arrest but supports law enforcement agencies by gathering, interpreting, and spreading information as well as organizing operations. The European Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) focuses on organized crime how it operates, its structure, and the main types of crime affecting the European Union .The EU terrorism situation Trend Report (TE-SAT), is published annually and provides information about Terrorism in the EU.

### **International criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL or ICPO)**

INTERPOL is the largest international police organization in the world. It was established in 1923 and aids cross-border police cooperation and supports and aids organizations, authorities and services whose mission is to prevent international crime. Interpol has identified four core functions which concentrate its efforts on: secure global police communication services, police training and development, operational data services and databases for police, and operational police support services. Interpol firmly believes that corruption fuels transnational crime and terrorism.

### **Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)**

The Security Council established the Counter-Terrorism Committee after the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. The committee is made up of all the Security Council members and monitors the progress made on Security Council resolution 1373 which requested countries to implement measures to enhance their legal and institutional ability to counter terrorist activities within their country, in their regions, and around the world. The organization focuses on the financial support behind terrorist activity, condemns any terrorist behavior, and works to bring criminals to justice.

### **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)**

UNICRI is an organization that works to support governments and the world in addressing the threats of crime to social peace, development and political stability. The organization was established in 1967 and supports countries worldwide in their attempts to prevent crime and promote criminal justice.

This UN organization offers their expertise and research to assist in the formulation of policies. The organization also works on institutional training of individuals. The organization main areas of concern include crime prevention, criminal justice, such as corruption, security, organized crime. Especially trafficking and the trade of illicit drugs and arms. UNICRI supports countries in promoting and strengthening legislation and governments capacity to deal with organized crime and corruption.

### United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

UNODC was established in 1997 by merging the United Nations Drug Control Programme with the Centre for International Crime Prevention. UNODC operates all over the world by and is funded mainly by donations from governments. The UNODC works diligently to protect the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which is the main diplomatic tool to counter organized crime. The UNODC firmly believes that accurate information is essential to ensure the appropriate response to dealing with transnational organized crime. The UNODC has also addressed issues pertaining to Terrorism and international cooperation The General Assembly in 2002 approved an expanded program of the UNODC, known as the Terrorism Prevention Branch that would be used in the legal related aspects of counterterrorism, especially in creating, ratifying and implementing new legislation and strengthening old legislation.

### Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
1790	The government of the French revolution used the word “terrorism” for the first time by introducing state terror against the people of France by killing thousands. The agents of The Committee of Public Safety and The National Convention that enforced the policies of “The Terror”, were named “The Terrorists”.
Late 19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Throughout the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century, radical politics, advances in weapon technology, and the formation of small groups of revolutionaries were all tied together to develop attack strategies toward nation-states. By implementing propaganda, there were multiple successes such as assassinating the head of state of Russia, France, Spain, Italy, and the US. A good example of a terrorist organization

	from this era is the Russian Narodnya Volya (The People Will). Although they were different in some ways from terrorist today, they have many of the same main components such as being secretive, having a factional organization, and a direct link to increases in levels of violence in which areas are pressured.
1968	The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine overtook an El Al airliner going from Tel Aviv to Rome. Even though events like this had taken place prior to this attack, this was the first of the nationality of the man (Israeli), and the first time for the symbolic value of the attack to be that of specific operational aim.
1970	Cooperative reinforcement and training within two extremist organizations between Palestinian groups and Europeans radicals occurred.
September 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2001	This is the largest recorded act of international terrorism. Extremist terrorists plotted the destruction of the World Trade Center in NYC, and the Pentagon in Washington. But, major terrorist acts have occurred also in New Delhi where the Indian Parliament was attacked, The Car Bomb attack in Bali, subway bombings in London, train bombings in Madrid, and many more.

## Relevant UN Treaties and Resolution

- Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, 9 December 1994 (A/RES/49/60)
- Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, 17 February 1995 (A/RES/49/60)
- Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, 17 December 1996 (A/RES/51/210)
- Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, January 15 1990 (A/RES/63/129)
- Security Council Anti-Terrorism Resolution, 28 September 2001 (1374)
- International Convention for the Suppression of Financing Terrorism, 9 December 1999 (A/RES/54/109)



- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, 15 April 2001 (A/RES/59/290)
- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, 9 January 1998 (A/RES/52/164)
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime : Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, 31 May 2001 (A/RES/55/255)
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 15 November 2000 (A/RES/55/25)
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime : Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, 15 November 2000 (A/RES/55/25)
- Collection of UN Resolutions on Terrorism: <http://www.un.org/terrorism/resolutions.shtml>

## Previous Attempts to Solve This Issue

Governments around the globe aim to abolish terrorism and the support it receives through organized crime amid a broad palette of approaches. These responses include the re-modification of governmental transparency and attempts to enforce the global value of civic activism. In the USA alone, an estimate of “1,271 government organizations and 1,931 private companies work on programs related to counterterrorism, homeland security and intelligence in about 10,000 locations across the United States” (washingtonpost.com).

Governmental institutions implement targeted laws specifically designed for terrorist crimes and specific criminal procedures. Additionally, deportations and enhanced police powers against terrorism are being enforced to clearly differentiate between arbitrary crimes and acts of terrorism. This distinction enables more strict consequences for terrorists, gives the public a greater sense of security, and underlines the severe threat of terrorism in society.

In especially critical regions, government agencies and NGOs are hardening direct targeting by enforcing more traffic barriers and controls. Although the public oftentimes feels threatened by an increase in permissive interrogation and more acute detention policy, such as the Patriot Act of the USA, it has proven a small degree of effectiveness. However, critics believe that governmental monitoring and increased intelligence and surveillance activities raise fear and distrust and further question the proportionality between minor successes and an increased barrier between government and people.

## Possible Solutions



A possible solution to this problem could be the upgrade of security on a international level. The act of terrorism and organized crime rarely affects nations on a national rather than international level. By increasing communication within communities, we can then determine what needs to be spoken about and who they should go to to express concerns. By monitoring citizens as well, there can be clearer outline of where there may be anomalies in straightforward centers. A third possible solution is to increase funding and awareness for research centers

## Bibliography

- Bovenkerk, Frank, and Bashir A. Chakra. "Terrorism and Organized Crime." Thesis. Universiteit Van Utrecht, 2005. *Igitur Archief*. 2005. Web. Dec. 4. <<http://igitur-archive.library.uu.nl/law/2006-0803-203003/UUindex.html>>.
- Lozada, Carlos. "Does Poverty Cause Terrorism?" *The National Bureau of Economic Research*. Feb. 2009. Web. 06 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.nber.org/digest/may05/w10859.html>>.
- EUROPOL. "Europol Profile." *EUROPOL*. Web. 4 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.europol.europa.eu/index.asp?page=facts>>.
- INTERPOL. "INTERPOL: an Overview." 2010. Web. 4 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/FactSheets/GI01.pdf>>.
- Sullivan, Andrew, Michael Elliott, Gilles Kepel, Ali Salem, Phillip Bobbitt, John McCain, and Michael Kinsely. "September 11 —a Nation Remembers." *TIME*. 1 Dec. 2002. Web. 04 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.time.com/time/covers/1101020909/toc.html>>.
- The Institute." *United Nations Crime and Justice Interregional Research Institute*. Web. 05 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.unicri.it/institute/>>.
- United Nations. "About the Counter-terrorism Committee." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes*. 14 Oct. 2010. Web. 04 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.un.org/en/sc/ctc/aboutus.html>>.
- UNODC. "About UNODC." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes*. Mar. 2010. Web. 04 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html?ref=menutop>>.
- UNODC. "Delivering Counter-terrorism Assistance." Mar. 2009. Web. 4 Dec. 2010. <[http://www.unodc.org/documents/terrorism/TPB\\_brochure\\_English\\_final\\_printed\\_copy.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/terrorism/TPB_brochure_English_final_printed_copy.pdf)>.
- UNODC. "UNODC and Organized Crime." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes*. Mar. 2009. Web. 04 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/index.html?ref=menuside>>.
- UNODC. "UNODC's Role in Terrorism Prevention." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. Mar. 2009. Web. 04 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/the-role-of-unodc-in-terrorism-prevention.html?ref=menuside>>.

United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation. US department of Justice. *Brief History of the FBI.* FBI . N.p. Web. 4 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/history/brief-history>>.

United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation. U.S. Department of Justice. *Organized Crime Overview.* Web. 04 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/organizedcrime/overview>>.

United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation. US Department of Justice. *FBI.* By Dennis C. Blair. 2 Feb. 2010. Web. 4 Dec. 2010. <[http://www.dni.gov/testimonies/20100202\\_testimony.pdf](http://www.dni.gov/testimonies/20100202_testimony.pdf)>.

UNGC. "Principle 10." *United Nations Global Compact.* United Nations. Web. 06 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/aboutthegc/thetenprinciples/principle10.html>>.

Britannica. "Terrorism - Definition and More from the Free Merriam-Webster Dictionary." *Dictionary and Thesaurus - Merriam-Webster Online.* Merriam-Webster. Web. 07 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/terrorism>>.

International Terrorism and Security Research. "What Is Terrorism?" *Terrorism Research - What Is Terrorism?* Web. 08 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.terrorism-research.com/>>.

"Documents - United Nations." *Welcome to the United Nations: It's Your World.* Web. 01 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.un.org/en/documents/index.shtml>>.

*Welcome to Edinburgh Law School, Edinburgh Law School.* Web. 01 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/>>.

*European Union @ United Nations.* Web. 01 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.eu-un.europa.eu>>.

"SECURITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS WIDE-RANGING ANTI-TERRORISM RESOLUTION; CALLS FOR SUPPRESSING FINANCING, IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION." *Welcome to the United Nations: It's Your World.* Web. 01 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2001/sc7158.doc.htm>>.

"Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.* Web. 01 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/CTOC-COP-session4.html>>.

"International Instruments : Resolutions (1946 Onwards) : General Assembly (GA) : United Nations (UN)." *Welcome to the United Nations: It's Your World.* Web. 01 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/resins.htm>>.

"Resolutions - UN Action to Counter Terrorism." *Welcome to the United Nations: It's Your World.* Web. 01 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.un.org/terrorism/resolutions.shtml>>.

International Terrorism and Security Research. "History of Terrorism." *Terrorism Research - What Is Terrorism?* Web. 08 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.terrorism-research.com/history/>>.