
Issue Brief

(SDG 16 Special Committee)

Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorist Groups

Undoubtedly, the ever-changing yet complex nature of Transnational Organised Crime (TOC's) makes it one of the most challenging but crucial issues to confront today. As the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) states in the 2017 issue of their World Drug Report, some TOC's are receiving up to 8% of some More Economically Developed Countries (MEDC's) purely from illicit drug trafficking; making it a pressing question on an international scale that continues to grow and develop more and more as time goes on. As such, a global, united effort is necessary to bring about the vital change of abolishing these TOC's.

While all of these illegal organisations base their actions upon the exploitation of individuals, laws and modern technology; the methods they have started to use are becoming increasingly advanced at an alarming rate. Ranging from drug and human trafficking to mass identity theft, the list goes on. However, modern day technology has proven to be a blessing and a curse as not just TOC's but now Terrorist Groups are involving themselves in the online recruitment, transactions and financial flows that have made them almost untraceable. As the expanse of social media continues to grow, it becomes easier by the minute as of now, more than an estimated 6,000 posts are made per second on any given site. These groups exploit this fact and disguise themselves, hiding amongst these posts and begin to recruit those who share similar thoughts as them.

Furthermore these TOC's and Terrorist Groups, while seemingly alike, often work hand-in-hand to reach a certain ideal. With the exponential increase in activity in both these criminal activities, it is no surprise that the UNODC reported an estimated 5,000 of these organisations were identified in the European Union in 2017; of which more than one third were to have been suspected in illicit drug trafficking, thus making TOC drug trafficking more widespread than human trafficking, cybercrime and all other illicit activities.

While the future may look bleak after the continuous efforts of the UN - the 28 annual Conferences on Crime Prevention and 11 draft resolutions on crime in 2018 alone, of which 7 have now been officiated to list the minimum - the issues at hand have never been forgotten. By limiting them at their source of capital and working as an international conglomerate, our efforts will not be in vain.

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