

Forum: The 6th Committee of the General Assembly

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Question Of: Combating organized crime with special regard to the illegal trade of weapons

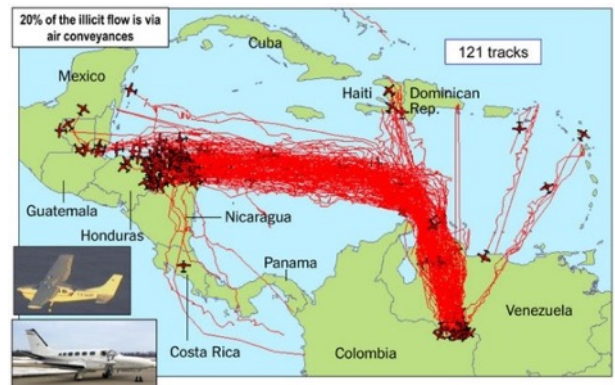
Introduction of the issue:

When people talk about organized crime, they are mostly thinking of the mafia, which (in the mind of some people) controls whole countries and pays the government and the police so everybody looks away and no one does anything against them. But in the real world it is much more than this. Organized crime is one of the most dangerous and most disturbing issues that exist in our world. It not only exists in countries which are said to have giant mafia empires, but it actually exists in every country and even worse, in almost all big towns. However, organized crime has one special component, which it needs to exist: weapons. Those weapons are easily accessible in some states, for example in the United States of America, where the Second Amendment to the Constitution makes it possible for every citizen to buy arms for self-protection. Additionally, in the Syrian civil war, big parts of the inhabitants of Syria have very easy access to weapons. But not everywhere in the world the access to arms is that simple, so **illegal weapons** and their trade are crucial for organized crime to exist. In total, on the illicit weapons market, a value of around 60 billion US-dollars is transferred per year which makes up for over 8 billion rifles, pistols, and light machine guns. Only the illegal small arms market makes 10-20 % of the world weapons trade, which is a frightfully high number, since small arms are just one part of the illicit weapons issue. Also terrorism is caused by illicit arms which are traded all around the world. A very bad situation is currently developing on in the Middle East and North Africa where ISIL is still gaining territory. It started with weapons which they managed to get illegally and until today they are destroying cultural buildings and recruit soldiers to fight for their believes. In Libya where the

infrastructure is insufficient and border controls are not working correctly, illegal weapon trade is one mayor issue, since Libya is the epicenter of those trades.

In Middle America, illegal weapons are traded as well, but in this region, most of the weapons are transported by airplanes as the red lines in the graph show. Due to the fact that illegal transporters are freer because of lacking controls at airports or private runways the business is growing constantly.

<http://static01.nyt.com/images/2012/07/27/world/sub->



[venezuela3/sub-venezuela3-popup.jpg](http://static01.nyt.com/images/2012/07/27/world/sub-venezuela3/sub-venezuela3-popup.jpg)

In order to decrease the number of illicit weapons which are traded through borders into other countries, a new and working infrastructure needs to be built up, especially in the Middle East. By establishing those better structures, border controls can be rebuilt or developed. Furthermore, high-tech instruments can be produced by MEDCs in order to support LEDCs build up controls; for example x-ray scans can be used to control every truck that crosses the borders.

Description of key terms:

Organized Crime¹:

The UN defines an organized crime group as “a group of more than three people that exist for a special period of time which is not further defined. This group has to have the aim to commit at least one crime which will be punished with more than a four years retribution and also indirectly or directly has to have a financial or material benefit to the group”, so for example hostage-taking.

As this criterion fits almost all criminal groups, there is one most important extra criterion, which is how profit-driven and serious the offense is done.

Small arms²:

Small arms are those that are fired by one person and do not have explosive ammunition so guns such as revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, assault rifles, sub-machine guns and light machine guns.

Light weapons²:

Light weapons can also be fired by one person, but they have explosive ammunition, in order to fight against, for example, tanks, helicopters or other aircrafts. Light weapons are for example heavy machine guns, hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles, portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems, portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems (MANPADS) and mortars of calibers of less than 100 mm.

Mafia³:

Mafia is a highly structured secret organization which is engaged in smuggling, trading narcotics and many other crimes. It is very active in the US and Italy.

Illegal weapons trade:

The term illegal weapons trade is hard to define, since every country has its own law which defines which trades of weapons are illegal and which are legal. Generally a trade of weapons is illegally if the trade is not officially reported to the government or an association that is responsible for the weapons and its trades in the responding country.



http://www.state.gov/img/12/49429/2012_0305_illegalarms_290_1.jpg

What has been done so far:

UN's PoA⁴:

In 2001, the UN General Assembly adopted a PoA (Program of Action) in order to combat all illegal trade of small weapons by strategizing the working on the issue of those trades. All member states accepted to report yearly, how far the PoA was implemented in their own country. Until 2010 though not even 155 nations made a yearly report and this number even decreased to under 40 nations in the year 2013.

US NSC strategy⁵:

The US National Security Council has its own strategy to secure the private lives of inhabitants. Firstly, they want to support their partner countries to develop a strong government and decrease the power of corruption to fight transnational crime. Secondly, they want to defeat transnational crime groups which pose the greatest threat to any infrastructure. Thirdly, the US is willing to work together with other nations and international organizations in order to make it easier to fight organized crime and to make it harder for organized crime groups to develop and operate transnationally.

These are two measures, which have been taken, but most countries have their own strategy.

What should be in your position paper:

Is your country affected by organized crime?

Which big events of organized crimes happened in your country and how did they happen?

Is your country a main party in the issue of illegal trade of weapons?

Does your country combat organized crime and what has it done yet?

Does your country support other countries to fight against organized crime or to build up better border controls?

What has your country done against illegal trade of weapons?

What is your country willing to do on that topic in the future?

What should the UN do regarding that issue?

Useful sources:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

<http://www.un.org/en/index.html>

<http://www.cfr.org/arms-industries-and-trade/strategy-reduce-gun-trafficking-violence-america/p31155>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URigqRQBRmM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxumsOQMxLE>

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arms_trafficking#Market_value

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arms_trafficking#Areas

1: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/de/organized-crime/index.html#what_organized_crime

2: <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/weapons-and-markets/definitions.html>

3: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/mafia>

4: <http://www.internationalpolicydigest.org/2015/01/05/guns-weapons-illegal-trade/>

5: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/nsc/transnational-crime/strategy>