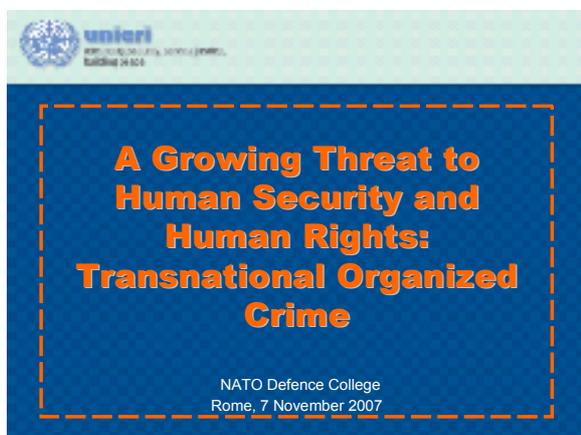


A Growing Threat to Human Security and Human Rights: Transnational Organized Crime

Background note
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NATO DEFENCE COLLEGE
Rome, 7 November 2007



Introductory Remarks

Globalization and growing economic interdependence have encouraged and promoted the transformation of crime beyond borders in all parts of the world. Improved communications and information technologies, increased blurring of national borders, greater mobility of people, goods and services across countries, and the emergence of a globalized economy have moved crime further away from its domestic base.

Globalization and the end of the Cold War have thus given international criminals unprecedented freedom of movement, making it easier for them to cross borders and to expand the range and scope of their operations. As a result, virtually every region or country in the world has seen an increase in international criminal activity - as either a source or transit zone for illegal contraband or products, a venue for money laundering or illicit financial transactions, or a base of operations for criminal organizations with global networks. Many regions or countries serve all three purposes for international criminal operations.

The nature of organized crime in the contemporary world then cannot be understood separately from the concept of **globalization**. Organized crime is a dynamic concept which keeps adapting to an ever changing environment and to new opportunities of crime. Criminal justice officials today are increasingly being asked to deal with offenses and offenders whose origins and connections lie outside their country. Drugs and drug offenders are the most obvious of these, but by no means the only ones. Transnational crimes include trafficked prostitutes from Southeast Asia or the former Soviet Union; migrant workers being exploited in sweatshops or farm fields; an array of credit card and banking frauds; automobiles stolen for shipment

overseas; guns smuggled in an effort to evade regulation; and children trafficked for use by child pornography rings. And the list could go on.



The slide features the UNICRI logo and the title 'TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME' in orange. The main text is on a dark blue background, stating that transnational organized crime is affected by three related factors, listed with blue arrow icons.

TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

Transnational organized crime is affected by three related factors:

- Globalization of the economy
- Improved communications technology
- Increased numbers and heterogeneity of immigrants

3

Transnational crime is affected by three related factors:

- **Globalization** of the economy.
- Improved **communications technology**
- Increased **numbers and heterogeneity of immigrants**.

These factors do not “cause” transnational crime. Rather, they facilitate crime, or in some cases, they are criminal opportunities in themselves. For example, immigration does not cause crime. The desire to immigrate, however, may cause people to violate immigration quotas and regulations and may lead to illegal immigration, which in turn is exploited by criminals. Most of the causes of transnational crime are not new; they are, in fact, quite similar to factors that drive crime in general: disparate socioeconomic conditions, which stimulate migration and its antecedent trafficking in persons; the desire for illegal goods and services, which moves crime into the transnational realm when the suppliers are in one country and the consumers are in another; and the universal greed for money and power.



The slide features the UNICRI logo and the title 'Emerging Trends' in orange. The main text is on a dark blue background, listing three emerging trends in organized crime, numbered 1 through 3.

Emerging Trends

1. In a number of countries a **nexus has emerged between Organized Crime, Corruption and Terrorism**
2. **Criminal organizations have expanded into a variety of illicit activities and new groups have emerged in new and specialized sectors**
3. **Shifts in organizational structures and approaches = complex networks of criminal organizations**

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Emerging trends

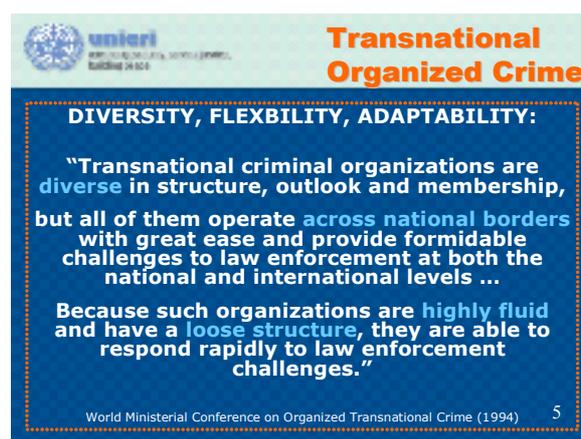
As the process of globalization has continued, there has been a diversification in the circumstances prevailing in many countries, in the activities and impact of criminal groups and in the structure and approach within and among criminal groups.

In the last decade, organized crime has evolved rapidly, propelled by the opening of new markets, facilitated by new communication technologies and pressured by law enforcement strikes. In a number of countries a **nexus** has emerged **between organized crime, corruption and terrorism**. Since the end of the cold war,

countries with **economies in transition** have also become particularly vulnerable to the growth of organized crime. Conflicts and instability in many regions have been intimately associated with the growth of powerful criminal organizations. War not only generates instability, in which organized crime thrives, but provides opportunity for illicit enrichment, through the creation of profitable markets for smuggled goods.

A second and significant trend in the last decade is the way in which criminal organizations have **expanded into a wide variety of illicit activities**. Many organized criminal groups have diversified their activities and new groups have emerged in several new and specialized sectors. Current evidence suggests the increased involvement of organized criminal groups in the area of fraud, most specifically **fraud** using the Internet and related high-technology crimes. **Trafficking** in persons has developed into a multi-billion-dollar enterprise. Criminal groups now also engage in **trafficking in firearms, cultural objects and natural resources**.

There have also been important **shifts in organizational structures and approaches** of organized criminal groups. Such groups are now less likely to be large, hierarchical organizations. Instead they are likely to be small groups or networks of individuals with specific skills. In parallel with globalization, there has been an explosion of **complex networks of criminal organizations**, whose activities span many countries, where Governments may have different capacities to combat the problem. Criminal groups are also more likely to “outsource” some components of their activities to other criminal groups or to form strategic alliances with both competitors and collaborators.



Organized crime is known for its diversity, flexibility and capability to quickly take advantage of new opportunities As well stated in a U.N document:

*“Trans-national criminal organizations are **diverse** in structure, outlook and membership, but all of them operate **across national borders** with great ease and provide formidable challenges to law enforcement at both the national and international levels ... Because such organizations are highly **fluid** and have a **loose structure**, they are able to respond rapidly to law enforcement challenges.”¹*

Most serious organised criminal activities require some measure of criminal collaboration and infrastructure, and this lies behind the formation of organised crime groups and networks. A wide range of structures exists. Some serious organised criminals belong to established groups with clear hierarchies and defined roles, but many are part of looser criminal networks and collaborate as necessary to carry out particular criminal ventures. Such contacts are reinforced by links of kinship, ethnicity, or long association. I will try to provide a brief overview of different types of existing structures later on in my presentation, by focusing on a specific organized crime activity such as human trafficking, where we have good examples of groups ranging from loose gangs to highly structured hierarchical groups.

¹ World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, *Problems and Dangers Posed by Organized Transnational Crime in the Various Regions of the World* (United Nations, August 18, 1994).

 **Organized Crime's Impact:**

Why should NATO address the issue of O.C.?

- O.C. has profound **social, economic and political consequences**.
- O.C. **compromises the normal function of economic, government and social institutions**.
- O.C. can **undermine democratic processes and corrode trust in public institutions**.
- O.C. is driven by **greed and perpetuates itself through addiction, enslavement and the exploitation of human vulnerability**.

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The threat from organized crime can be subtle and insidious or violent and overt. It has profound **social, economic and political consequences**. It **compromises the normal function** of economic, government and social institutions. Organized crime can **undermine** democratic processes and corrode trust in public institutions. It is driven by greed and perpetuates itself through addiction, enslavement and the exploitation of human vulnerability.

Serious organised criminals have an excellent and dynamic understanding of criminal markets and are quick to respond to threats from law enforcement measures or rivals and to seize and create money-making opportunities. The current nature of organized crime requires a global response, through increased international cooperation. The primary international instrument to counter the phenomenon is the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols.

 **SECTION 1**

The UN Legal Instruments: Palermo Convention And Trafficking Protocol

And the difference between migrants' smuggling and THB

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 **The U.N. Legal Instruments**

- ✓ UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) - 2003
- ✓ UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children - 2003
- ✓ UN Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air - 2004



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In the year 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted the **Convention** against Transnational Organized Crime (TOC), the **Protocol** to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea. The Convention and the THB Protocol entered into force in 2003, while the Smuggling Protocol entered into force in January 2004.

Nature of the Instruments

- Convention and Protocols are **binding legal instruments**
- International law needs to be **"domesticated"**
- The Convention has **general measures** against transnational organised crime
- The Protocols deal with **specific crime problems**
- Protocols **supplement** the Convention
- A State must be a **party to the Convention** to become party to a Protocol

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Both the Convention and the Protocol are international laws, they are **binding legal instruments** which commit the State Parties to adopt serious measures against transnational organised crime and **the specific crimes** dealt by the Protocol. A State must be **party of the Convention** to be party of the Protocol.

These instruments are extremely important because they provide a solid ground to fight against transnational organised crime, they provide clear definition of the concepts involved, and they provide a broad comprehensive approach which includes identification of crimes, prevention, protection of human rights of the victims, research, training, and enhance international cooperation through extradition, crime control mechanisms, and law-enforcement legal assistance.

Ratifications of the TOC Convention



 Signatories: 147
 States Parties: 134

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Purpose of the TOC Convention

"to promote cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organised crime more effectively"
(art.1)

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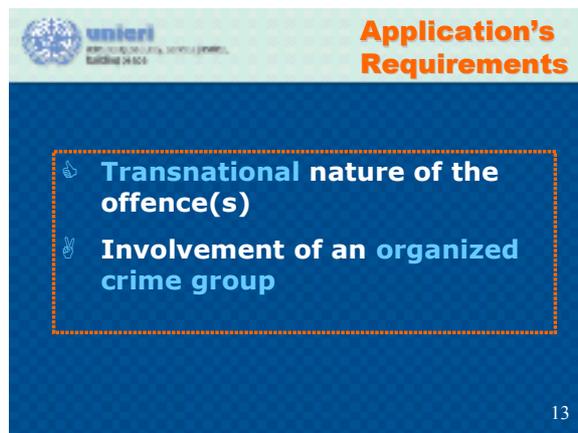
The **purpose** of the Convention, as stated in Art. 1, is *"to promote cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organised crime more effectively"*.



The Convention requires Member States to include in their domestic legal systems the following **criminal offences**:

- Participation in an organised criminal group (Art. 5);
- Laundering of the proceed of crime (Art. 6);
- Corruption (Art 8); and
- Obstruction of justice (Art.23).

The recognition of these acts as crimes at the international level is extremely important to prevent criminal organisations from taking advantage of legislative gaps and profiting from lack or inadequate jurisdiction. State Parties are also required to develop appropriate forms of cooperation.



For the Convention to be applicable, two requirements are envisaged:

- the **transnational nature** of the above criminal offences. The offence is transnational when the crimes are not only committed but also planned or controlled in more than a single country, or have concrete effects in another State, or because are committed by groups working in more than one State; and
- the involvement of an **organised crime group**.



Definition of Organized Crime Group

- ❖ structured group
- ❖ three or more persons
- ❖ existing for a period of time
- ❖ acting in concert
- ❖ aim of committing serious crime(s) or Convention offences
- ❖ to obtain direct or indirect financial or other material benefit

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The Convention provides a clear **definition of organised crime group**, which allows the standardization of practises and penal approaches: “*a structured group of three or more persons, existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences, established in accordance with this Convention, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit*” (Art. 2).



The Convention also Includes:

- 🌀 Extradition measures (art.16)
- 🌀 Mutual legal assistance provisions (art.18 and 21)
- 🌀 Administrative and regulatory controls
- 🌀 Joint investigations and special investigative techniques (e.g. controlled deliveries, electronic surveillance, undercover operations) (art.19-20)
- 🌀 Measures for victims and witness protection (art.24-25)

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The Convention foresees also:

- **Extradition** measures (art.16)
- **Mutual legal assistance** provisions (art.18 and 21)
- Administrative and regulatory controls
- **Joint investigations** and special investigative techniques (e.g. controlled deliveries, electronic surveillance, undercover operations) (art.19-20)
- Measures for **victims** and **witness protection** (art.24-25)

While the Convention deals with organised crime and some of the major related offences, the Protocols deal with specific forms of transnational organized crime, such as trafficking in human beings, and smuggling of migrants.

Organized Crime's Involvement in THB

- 1 THB and Smuggling of Migrants are a serious and growing problem
- 2 THB has become one of the biggest criminal business worldwide, after drug and weapons trafficking
- 3 THB is made up of several serious crimes
- 4 The transnational nature of the problem requires a transnational solution

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The trafficking of human beings and the smuggling of migrants have become two of the **fastest growing** worldwide problems in recent years. Human trafficking has become one of the biggest **criminal business worldwide**, after drug trafficking and trafficking of weapons. The potentially high profits and minimal risks of detection and punishment make trafficking an extremely tempting enterprise in many countries of the world.

Trafficking in human beings (THB) is a multi-faceted phenomenon, **made up of several serious crimes**. It is virtually impossible to commit THB in isolation from other forms of criminal activity, from sale of human beings, to money laundering, counterfeiting of documents and corruption. Local criminal organisations forge relationships with other criminal groups in neighbouring and further countries to traffic their victims. The **transnational nature** and the structure of this crime require a comprehensive and coordinated response at international level. Singular measures or efforts by a single country cannot produce a positive and effective impact.

Definition of THB

Article 3, paragraph (a)

«**Trafficking in persons**’ shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by **means** of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the **purpose** of exploitation»

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For a long time, there has not been consensus about what constitutes THB and this had an effect on the measures that were taken to stop trafficking. Therefore, a major important tool provided by the Protocol is a clear and commonly shared **definition** of trafficking in **Article 3**. This definition reflects the three main elements: **Acts**; **Means**; **Purpose**. From the definition we can observe different phases or stages in the trafficking process, but it has to be mentioned that in reality these phases are partly overlapping and concurrent.

ACTS

Recruitment: The first stage of the trafficking process is the phase during which traffickers target and acquire potential victims. Recruitment can occur as an act of physical violence by kidnapping the victim, or by threat, or with consent through deception or by other forms of coercion. The methods of recruitment used by traffickers are varied. They range from individual recruiters looking for potential candidates in bars, cafes,

clubs and discos; to recruitment via informal networks of families and/or friends. Advertisements offering work or study abroad are also commonly used.

Transportation: During this phase victims are isolated from their families and social environment, and almost completely dependent upon the traffickers for food, shelter, information and "protection" from authorities.

Purchase, sale, transfer, receipt or harbouring of a person: It is at this stage that the exploitation is fully achieved. It is when victims arrive to their final destination, that they find themselves under slavery-like life conditions.

MEANS. The Protocol requires some form of distortion of the victim's free and informed will.

Deception: Trafficking is never consensual. Sometimes, people are persuaded to migrate by others who give false information about the economic opportunities, the nature of work and/or the conditions in which they will be working: people, therefore, choose to migrate but end up in a "trafficked" situation.

Coercion: This includes taking away someone's freedom of movement and personal choice, use of force or threat against the victim or her/his family in order to keep her/him under control without being able to decide about her/his own live, labour and migration opportunities.

Abuse of a position of vulnerability: This refers to any situation in which the person has no real acceptable alternative but to submit to the abuse involved. Abuse of authority plays an important role, for example, when parents agree to sell their child or when anyone exerting a form of authority over the victim agrees to or is involved in trafficking.

Purpose: Exploitation

- The exploitation of prostitution of others
- Other forms of sexual exploitation
- Forced labor or services
- Slavery or similar practices, or servitude
- Removal of organs

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PURPOSE- Exploitation: Victims lose their freedom, their human rights, the right to decide over their life, and are subject to various forms of violence.

Consent of the Victim

- It is irrelevant where illicit means have been used
- In case of **minors**, the consent is **always** irrelevant, regardless of the means used



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CONSENT

The consent of the victim to the exploitation is irrelevant where the one of the above-mentioned means has been used (Art. 3 para. (b)). In case of a **child** (minor of 18 years of age) the consent is **always** irrelevant regardless of the means used.

Victims often consent to the initial stage of trafficking because traffickers deceive them or just because they do not have any other chance to survive in their countries. The Protocol in defence of the victims' human rights and to fight against this form of modern slavery deny that the initial consent could be used to deny the status of trafficked person or not recognise the offence of trafficking.

Smuggling of Migrants

Art. 3 Smug. Prot

«**Smuggling of migrants** shall mean the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material **benefit**, of the **illegal entry** of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident»

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Difference with Smuggling

- Smuggling is always transnational, THB not necessarily
- Migrants have **consented to smuggling**
- Smuggling ends with the arrival at destination, THB involves **exploitation**



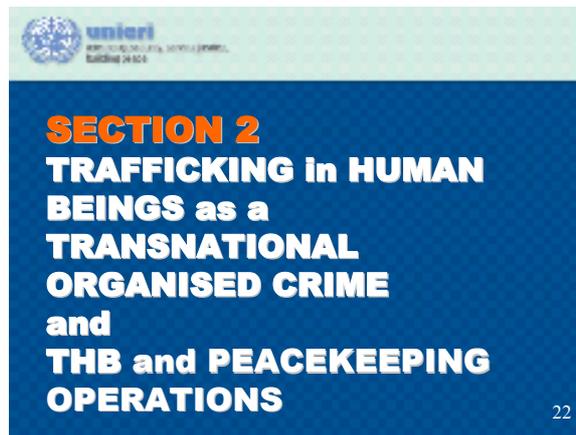
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Difference between THB and smuggling of migrants

Another important issue is to distinguish trafficking from smuggling. Trafficking in human beings, illegal migration and smuggling of migrants are different crimes addressed by different legal instruments. The main differences are:

- Smuggling is always **transnational**, while trafficking can occur within the same country;
- Smuggling, while often undertaken in dangerous or degrading conditions, involves migrants who have **consented** to the smuggling. Trafficking victims have either never consented or, if they initially consented, that consent has been rendered meaningless by the coercive, deceptive or abusive actions of the traffickers;
- Smuggling ends with the arrival of the migrants at their destination, whereas trafficking involves the on-going **exploitation** of the victims to generate illicit profits for the traffickers.

Many countries fail to make a distinction between trafficking and illegal migration. This creates a risk of re-victimization of the trafficked victims charges with the crimes of illegal entry.



THB as a transnational organised criminal

High potential profits and minimal risk of detection and punishment make human trafficking a tempting enterprise for organised criminal groups in many countries. Whilst the profitability may match that of narcotics trafficking, the penalties imposed if convicted are not comparable.

THB groups exist at many levels, from individuals or small-scale groups of informal criminal contacts to highly complex, international, organised criminal networks.



Small-scale informal networks

Low-level informal networks usually take the form of small groups of individuals within limited **family networks and/or ethnic communities** that extend over borders. Small numbers of victims are trafficked as need arises. The traffickers will often use contacts with family and community members back home to recruit women for brothels or prostitution rings, and younger males and females for labour exploitation. Recruiters usually act as **transporters and exploiters** as well, being **friends or acquaintances** of the future victims. They usually are involved in the **lowest circles of illegal prostitution**.

Large-Scale Organized Networks

- Middle-sized criminal groups
- Supply sex markets in foreign countries
- Control every stage of THB from recruitment to management of brothels
- “Professionals” of slave trade
- Organisation of mobile prostitution
- Supported by middle-men

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Large-scale organized criminal networks

Large-scale criminal groups specifically **supply markets of foreign countries** and **control most aspects of trafficking**, from recruitment and transport to the management of localized brothels and street prostitutes. Some of these groups focus their activities uniquely on the recruitment and transport of victims.

THB functions like a business with a recruitment agency office, document procurement office, transport office and prostitute management office. Traffickers take their jobs very seriously and **professionally**, and often use extreme violence to maintain order. The victims procured are regarded as merchandise or commodities to be traded, much as in a traditional slave trade.

More sophisticated middle-size groups organize the so-called **mobile prostitution**. It consists in moving or rotating trafficking victims from one place to another, both within a country and across international borders. This system ensures that brothel owners and procurers have a constant supply of new persons. Furthermore, the criminal organizations trade or exchange their victims with other organizations, which give them a new identity when the risk of law enforcement grows too high. To this end traffickers need to be supported by a reliable network of sex exploiters, and by **middle-men** in the transit countries that facilitate crossing of national borders by corrupting border control officials or providing forged papers.

Criminal Distribution Networks

- Complex transnational organised criminal organisations
- Control and coordinate every phase of THB
- Victims sold several times
- Highly specialised
- Professional figures well integrated in legal society
- Initial investors are sheltered and not directly involved
- Money specialists launder the profits

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Criminal Distribution Networks

More **complex transnational criminal organizations** are those that control and coordinate **every phase of the trafficking** procedure, from the recruitment to the exploitation. The victims may be **sold several times** to different brothels or gangs in different cities or countries, or remain within one ring and be circulated to new markets. These networks are **highly specialized**. Several professional figures, some of which are well-**integrated into legal society**, take part in the business. **Initial investors are often sheltered** and not otherwise directly involved.

All three levels of trafficking exist side-by-side. Often, these networks are the same as those developed for smuggling of people, drugs and stolen goods. Yet, the profit made from THB surpasses that made in drug or arms smuggling, and the risk of detection and arrest and adequate punishment remains much lower.

THB and peace support operations (PSOs)

As well stated in NATO Policy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings², human trafficking is a “modern day slave trade that fuels corruption and organized crime”, bringing with it the potential to weaken and destabilize fragile governments”.



THB escalates during times of armed conflict. Impunity, lawlessness, the collapse of State institutions and the lack of border controls are all factors that allow THB to flourish. Furthermore, the destruction of the economy, family income and family units places women and children at increased risk of being trafficked. Conflict areas may become areas of origin, transit or destination:

- **Sexual enslavement:** Abduction for the purpose of sexual enslavement has been documented in many recent conflict situations. For example, in Angola, the Former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) men and women (including minors) have been abducted and confined, then been forced into prostitution.
- **Forced pregnancy:** Rape and forced pregnancy of abducted women and girls has been used as a tool of ethnic cleansing in the conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Rwanda.
- **Forced labour:** The exploitation of women and minors' labour is often used to sustain war economies and to humiliate civilians. Abducted women and girls in camps are often forced to work for their abductors. Civilians may also be used to carry out war-related work such as demining and carrying ammunition.
- **Forced recruitment of combatants:** In many internal armed conflicts, parties to the conflict forcibly recruit civilians, often children, to fight for them. The forcible recruitment of civilians has been documented in Sudan, Uganda, Sierra Leone and DRC.

² Adopted at NATO 2004 Istanbul Summit.

THB in Post Conflict Situation

- Areas of **origin** due to social disintegration and lack of economic opportunities
- Areas of **destination** due to the demand for prostitution by members of the military and/or internationals



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The same factors that allow THB to flourish during situations of conflict are often also prevalent in post-conflict situations.

• **Post-conflict areas as areas of origin for trafficking victims:** Immediately after the implementation of a cease-fire, peace agreement or the deployment of a PSO, there is an increased risk that a particular territory will become an area of origin for THB. Social disintegration and a lack of economic opportunities put women and children at increased risk. Displaced and refugee women trying to return to their homes, or fleeing from camps, are particularly vulnerable.

• **Post-conflict zones as areas of destination:** The demand for prostitution by members of the military is not a new phenomenon: organized criminal groups traffic their victims in such areas mostly for sexual exploitation. It is no surprise that the presence of foreign troops in a post-conflict region creates or drastically enlarges local sex markets. Once the market is maintained by the presence of foreign troops, locals often fuel the market further by becoming clients as well.

Types of PSO Involvement in THB

- The **purchase of sex services or domestic labour, creating a demand for services which traffickers exploit**
- **Participation or collusion in the act of THB**



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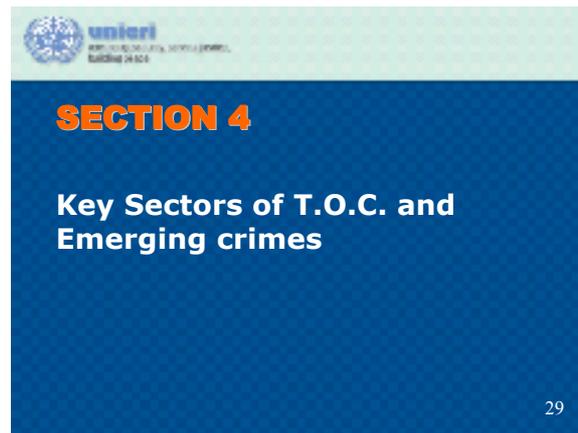
THB and Peace Support Operations (PSOs)

The deployment of the PSOs in Sierra Leone, Kosovo, Eritrea and Bosnia and Herzegovina created huge local sex markets. Thus, as a direct result of the deployment of a PSO, these countries became destination areas for the trafficking in women as “dancers”, prostitutes and “masseuruses”. In Kosovo the arrival of UNMIK and KFOR transformed the territory from a transit route into a destination area.

The use of trafficking victims by international staff for sexual and/or other services has been a source of major embarrassment and political damage in PSOs. Allegations and incidences of staff involvement in THB run counter to the principles of the UN and are in violation of national law and internal UN rules and regulations. THB can seriously impede the attainment of UN peace mission objectives. PSO personnel becoming involved in THB undermines the overall objectives of the PSO and damages the credibility of the mission.

The mandates of PSOs often include the (re)establishment of respect for the rule of law, human rights and democratic principles. The involvement of PSO staff in THB damages police and rule of law reforms. The problem also severely compromises the mission's relations with host governments, civil society and members of the local community. PSO members may unknowingly or knowingly be clients of trafficked women. In some cases, there is evidence that PSO staff have become actively engaged in criminal acts associated with THB, including the transportation of victims. There is evidence that in areas such as BiH and Kosovo, international staff knew that the women whose services they were paying for were victims of THB.

Key Sectors and emerging crimes



Among the sectors those that can be identified as new areas of action for organized crime groups, I would like to mention a few in which UNICRI, the Institute I am directing, is currently focusing its attention and developing new projects: cyber crime, environmental crime and counterfeiting. Given time constraints, I will only briefly mention such sectors, but I am of course open to any question you may have.



The worldwide multiplication of new information and communication technologies also casts a dark shadow: it has made possible new forms of exploitation, new opportunities for criminal activity and indeed new forms of crime.

The conceptualization of “computer-related crime” or similar terms such as “**cybercrime**” has been a topic of debate for the past 30 years. It should be intended as conduct proscribed by legislation and/or jurisprudence that (a) is directed at computing and communications technologies themselves; (b) involves the use of digital technologies in the commission of the offence; or (c) involves the incidental use of computers with respect to the commission of other crimes, and hence the computer as a source of digital evidence.

There are a number of forms of computer-related crime that target information and communication technologies themselves, sometimes referred to as the class of crimes against the confidentiality, integrity or availability of computer systems. These include forms of theft of telecommunications services and theft of computer services by using diverse hacking techniques (depending on the technology, these include unauthorized access, code and password cracking, digital cloning, credit card skimming and so forth).

Also, it is essential to become aware of how computers are used as instruments or tools to commit crime. There are many variants to crime associated with the modification of data—some involving criminal mischief such as electronic vandalism (website defacement) and others constituting professional forgery and counterfeiting. There are websites devoted to “carding” (forging credit cards), which includes making available high-quality counterfeit currency and passports. Theft of Data covers a broad spectrum, ranging from information piracy and industrial espionage to copyright infringement (theft of intellectual property in the form of pirate software, MP3 music files, digital video and so on). Theft of data may not be simply an economic crime; it may also infringe upon privacy and related rights of the individual in emerging crimes associated with identity theft.

Moreover, there is a range of content-related crimes that involve computers, particularly the dissemination of illegal and harmful material. Of particular concern is child pornography. Although it has existed for many decades (in the form of photographs, magazines, films and videos), there has been a growing tendency since the late 1980s for child pornography to be distributed through a variety of computer networks, using a range of Internet services including websites,

Finally, in recent years, there has been increasing attention devoted to the relation between terrorism and the Internet, although here, too, there is a diverse range of activities. There are indications that the Internet is being used to facilitate terrorist financing and as a logistics tool for planning and executing terrorist acts. There is also an increased focus on the role of the Internet in disseminating terrorist propaganda and in the use of the Internet for recruitment.

Environmental Crime

Broad category including 5 main areas of offences:

- Illegal trade in wildlife;
- Dumping and illegal trade in hazardous waste;
- Illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances;
- Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing;
- Illegal logging and trade of timber.

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Environmental crime is a serious and growing international problem, with criminals violating national and international laws put in place to protect the environment. It represents a broad category, which includes five main areas of offences:

- illegal trade in wildlife;
- dumping and illegal trade in hazardous waste;
- illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances;
- illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing;
- illegal logging and trade of timber.

The perpetrators of environmental crime may be individuals, loosely organized network of individuals and criminal organizations, such as La Cosa Nostra's involvement in the New York's garbage industry or the Ecomafia in Italy. The growing involvement of criminal organizations into environmental crime has become a reason of concern, also considering the enormous revenues gained by criminal organizations through environmental crimes which are then used to finance other crimes.

Increasing evidence suggests a growing role of organized crime in the trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that the total global trade in animals, plants and their by-products is around \$160 billion per year, based on declared import values, and involves hundreds of millions of plant and animal species. While the proportion of this trade that is illegal is difficult to determine, it is estimated that the financial cost of the illicit global wildlife trade runs into several billion dollars and that its environmental costs are immeasurable.

By the mid-1990s, it is estimated that around 20,000 tons of ozone-depleting substances were being traded illegally each year, the equivalent of 20 per cent of legitimate trade. Sophisticated smuggling networks are now said to control much of the trade. In some countries illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances has increased dramatically and a variety of smuggling methods have emerged. Where licensing systems have been effectively implemented, organized criminal groups have resorted to other methods, such as false labelling.

The slide features the UNCTAD logo in the top left corner. The title 'Counterfeiting' is in orange at the top right. The main content is on a blue background with three bullet points: 'In 2006, EU customs seized more than 128 million counterfeit and pirated goods', '200 billion US dollars of international trade in 2005 could have been in counterfeit or pirated products', and '7-10% of all pharmaceuticals products in the world would be counterfeits, reaching a total of 30-40% in certain African countries'. To the right, there are two images: one showing a grid of various national flags and another showing a person from behind wearing a white t-shirt with a black triangle logo. The number '32' is in the bottom right corner.

Counterfeiting is another growing and increasingly dangerous phenomenon. The statistics of seizures for 2006 confirm an existing trend. In 2006, EU customs seized more than 128 million counterfeit and pirated goods and handled more anti-counterfeiting cases than ever before. In 2005, 200 billion US dollars of international trade could have been in counterfeit or pirated products, while 7-10% of all pharmaceuticals products in the world are believed to be counterfeits, reaching a total of 30-40% in certain African countries.

Notably, trade in counterfeit goods was rising dramatically worldwide and had spread to almost every conceivable type of product. Billions of dollars in revenues were being lost to the black economy. Counterfeit drugs were putting lives at risk. And there was growing evidence that transnational organized crime networks were using profits from trade in counterfeit and pirated goods to fund their activities.

Since I can see that my time is over, I am compelled to conclude my lecture here, but let me first thank you for your kind attention and wish you good work during the remaining part of this course.