

Correlations between organized crime and terrorismⁱ

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Abstract: *The activities of terrorist organizations in the international arena provide benefits of access to global financial flows, various criminal markets, offshore financial centers and banks that guarantee fast large cashless transactions, with guarantees of business and banking secrets. This often requires connecting with criminal organizations that specialize in financial and cybercrime, which is why terrorists are often associated with organized crime. The link between organized crime and terrorism is usually functional, when organized crime is put into function (financing and arming) of terrorism. At the same time, the connection can be instrumental, when terrorist groups are involved in organized crime, and vice versa - when criminal groups undertake terrorist activities. Precisely, the focus of the work will be on determining these correlations and their security implications, which we must take into account when creating effective strategies for combating organized crime and terrorism.*

Keywords: ORGANIZED CRIME, TERRORISM, SECURITY, SUPPRESSION, STRATEGY

1. Introduction

In the context of modern security problems, organized crime and terrorism certainly represent the most controversial social phenomena, both on the national and global level. Correlations between organized crime and terrorism are becoming more intense and obvious. The reason for such a *symbiotic* relationship lies in the fact that the economic and political conditions which favored their creation and their actions are very similar. Overall, social and legal uncertainty, high levels of corruption, poverty, institution destructure, social conflicts limit the possibilities of legal profits. In this way, the space for the action of organized crime is also increased, which becomes an attractive economic alternative for young people who, in a lawful way, cannot achieve their daily needs and desires, on the other hand, and the terrorism of bloom in an environment where young people have limited opportunities for advancement [1].

Crime and terrorist organizations abuse the world's system of finances, international trade flows, modern forms of transport and communication, technological achievements and accelerated flow of information, goods, services and people in the legalization of criminal profit and financing of terrorist activities [2]. Thus, they are constantly changing and improving the methods of concealing sources, destinations and utilization of funds intended for *washing* and financing terrorist activities. Namely, the criminal organizations and financing of terrorist organisations are pledging to money laundering in order to impede traces of the source, destination and use of funds intended to finance terrorist and criminal activities, and then redirect these funds and make them available throughout their branched structure. Financial resources create the basis for the development of criminal and terrorist networks and for reaching the capacity to achieve the goals

Although seemingly similar, these are two different types of illegal activities, whose crucial point of differentiation is the *motive* of taking. In addition, their mutual difference can be derived from different *modus operandi* as well. The terrorist act manifests itself in the apparent manner of the wider public, unconcealed, its goal is precisely to be noticed by all social and state subjects in order to produce the desired results. The attacks of terrorists, especially recently, have been occupied by violence in vast amounts and intensity, mostly directed towards completely innocent victims. In organized crime everything is different. Criminal acts are specifically concealed and the goal is to stay in the shadows, away from the eyes of the public and state organs of disclosure and evidence. Violence is mainly *ultima*, whether it is applied in order to eliminate criminal competition or members of the police, the prosecution and the judiciary, which are particularly persistent, as a rule unbribable and resolved to bring members of organized criminal groups to justice. However, in recent years, the intertwined and the interaction of terrorism and organized crime have been programmed day by day.

2. Associative relations of organized crime and terrorism

The actions of terrorist organisations in international frameworks provide advantages in the form of access to world financial flows, different criminal markets, financial centres and banks that guarantee quick non-cash major transactions, with guarantees of keeping business - banking secrets. This also unrarely requires connection with criminal organizations that specialize in *financial and cyber crime*, which is why the connection of terrorists with organized crime is common.

Terrorist, as well as other criminal organizations, obviously needs financial support and assistance. Financial means are essential to all aspects of achieving their goals, including intelligence support, self-organization and protection, corruption of public officials, procurement of killer assets, forgery of documents and travel, training, execution of terrorist acts, etc. The financial funds of terrorist organisations may be large, although the financial means to carry out an individual terrorist act may be small. For example, the total cost of preparing and conducting terrorist attacks 11. September 2001. In America, the figures are estimated at the amount between three hundred thousand and one million US dollars, while the terrorist act was carried out by the bombing (which cost about three thousand pounds) in London in 2003. In 1998, he caused damage of around one billion pounds [3].

Although there are dilemmas regarding the correlation between terrorism and organized crime, we can safely claim that their relation can be exclusively at the level of *connection*, *not coinciding*. Namely, organized crime is a form of property - classical crime, lucrative and non-ideological character, while the motives and objectives of terrorists are ideological and political in character. Their bond is the most common funding of terrorism *with dirty money*. More specifically, there is a link between organised crime and terrorism in cases where:

- organised crime is financed by terrorist organisations or groups with its illegally acquired profit;
- organised crime smugglers of arms and equipment for the needs of terrorist movements and/or traffickers of foreign mercenaries and terrorists to the country of activity of the terrorist organisation;
- terrorist organisations, either alone or in cooperation with criminal groups, undertake certain organized criminal activities with the aim of acquiring material and military means to perform terrorist acts;
- organized crime, with expressed political aspirations, undertakes certain terrorist activities in order to directly come or bring its *political power* to power [4].

The violence of organized crime and terrorism is most often *functional*, when organized crime is put into function (*financing* and *weapons*) of terrorism. At the same time, the connection can be

instrumental, when terrorist groups deal with organized crime, and vice versa - when criminal groups undertake terrorist activities. In both cases money laundering is expressed. Terrorist organizations are in an ideal position if they have permanent access to the financial resources incorporated into the world system of finances. The financial means create the basis for the development of terrorist networks and for reaching the capacity for the realisation of terrorist actions. By using mechanisms of money laundering, terrorist organisations conceal the source, destination and use of funds intended to finance terrorist activities. It can be concluded that terrorism is a classical *ideological-political* delinquent, unlike organized crime, which, in view of the goals of the enterprise, is commonly classified as *property* crime. Namely, the primary elements of organized crime are: the existence of a permanent criminal organisation; rational criminal activity; profit acquisition as the ultimate goal of criminal activity and the use of force or threats and recourse to corruption in order to respect the goals and maintain immunity from the application of law [5].

In addition to financial assistance to terrorist organisations by individual countries, which in this way place their covert aspirations and aspirations, sources of their financial power primarily make illegal activities related to drugs, weapons, *money* laundering, and other forms of organized crime [6]. In this context, organized crime emerges as *financier* of terrorist organisations and their actions, which in a large number of cases are not cheap. On the other hand, international drug organizations, in an effort to maintain or expand, qualitatively and quantitatively, their areas of criminal activity, establish strong links with terrorist groups, which by their armed and other methods eliminate potential opponents of their *finances*. In this way a certain *interest symbiosis* of organized crime and terrorism has been created, which is usually expressed as a syntagm of *narco-terrorism*.

The connection between organized crime and terrorism is also manifested through satisfying the needs of terrorist groups for various types of weapons, from conventional to (potentially) weapons of mass destruction (primarily biological), which terrorists use as a *modus of operandi* in the realization of their goals. For his procurement, close ties are established with criminal organizations specialised in the illegal trade of weapons, which is widely expressed in the framework of organised crime, given its pronounced lucrative dimension.

Associative examples in the relation of organized crime - terrorism has a lot, especially the link between terrorist organisations and criminal groups dealing with drug trade. Namely, drug dealers have been involved in numerous terrorist activities, primarily through the financing of their actions through the money earned by selling drugs. The obvious example of such cooperation is the situation that has been present in Colombia for many years. In this country, nearly two decades of rebel groups, actually terrorist organisations, which are mostly financed by the Colombian drug-*mafia*, which in turn is seeking attacks on state organs engaged in drug abuse. The two largest Colombian terrorist organisations of this kind are the *Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia* and the *National Liberation Army* [7]. On the other hand, similar links between terrorists and organized crime were observed at the end of the twentieth century in Afghanistan as well. In it, the ruling Taliban regime and *Al Qaeda* participated in the organization and realization of the production and sale of heroin, in order to finance terrorist activities from the money acquired [8]. An interesting example of association between terrorism - organized crime, is the area of Kosovo and Metohija, during the nineties of the last century. The data published in a number of studies across Europe, at that time and after that, unambiguously pointed to the existence of a solid connection between the *Kosovo Liberation Army*, as terrorist organisations, and numerous criminal associations from Albania, Turkey and some EU member states [9]. Specifically, Albanian organised crime has provided and provides financial assistance to these organizations from the profits acquired through drug smuggling, weapons, people, trafficking in human beings, prostitution and recreation of businessmen and the population in the

country and abroad; arms them with smuggled weapons from Albania and other countries; smugglers of "volunteers" terrorists and "mercenaries" from Islamic countries to Kosovo and Metohija.

3. Money laundering and/or terrorism financing

Although traditionally characterized by *economics*, a large number of victims, great material damage and global media effects by using violent methods and using means that do not require special financial means, modern terrorism has become expensive. A serious problem with modern terrorists is the acquisition of financial resources and their safe transfer [10]. The problem is greater if the financier is thousands of kilometers away, and the possibility of transporting or smuggling cash is limited or scored with a high risk of finding and taking away. It is then *easiest* for the funds to be deposited in the legal financial system and, through international money transfer mechanisms, to be raised in the country where the terrorist group is operating. This is also not a simple operation, especially if the financial and intelligence structures *do their job* well. In addition, the problem of terrorists is even greater if the money is *dirty*, which previously requires its *washing*. Namely, money laundering is a type of property crime that conceals the existence and origin of illegally acquired funds, by including them into legal financial flows through transforms, transfers, exchanges, concealment of purpose by mixing with legal means or otherwise by which, in addition to illegal denial, conceals criminal activity and accomplishes the ultimate goal of money laundering - unhindered use Cost in criminal activities and avoid punishment for criminal offenses [11].

The financing of terrorist activities can be carried out by means whose legal (sponsored terrorism) and illegal nature (criminal activities) have arisen. *The new economy* of terrorism in the world has large resources available, which are most often acquired through the sale of drugs, oil, weapons, precious stones and people [12]. For example, *Al Kaida* network received between three and five hundred million dollars from various sources from various sources, i.e. around fifty million dollars a year from various sources. About 90% of this money was used to develop the infrastructure of the terrorist organisation (communications, communications, training, protection, etc.), and only 10% for the operational execution of terrorist attacks [13]. Terrorist and criminal organizations possessing large financial resources are facing the problem of their unhindered use. Therefore, they resort to money laundering, using different methods that can be combined into a more or less complex misuse scheme in economic relations.

This dichotomy implies a certain dilemma regarding the ability of the state to use measures to counter money laundering in discovering and investigating terrorist-related financial activities: in fact, most of the legal definitions of money laundering relate to legalisation of the illegal property benefits derived from criminal activities. However, in the case of financing terrorist activities, the main goals are non-financial, i.e. political. In addition, the methods of money laundering are essentially identical to the methods of concealing sources, destinations and utilizing funds intended for financing terrorist activities [14]. Therefore, during financial investigations the facts are collected that point to the economic activities of criminal and terrorist structures, but very often we cannot determine with certainty, especially at the beginning of the investigation, whether it is money laundering or terrorist financing operations.

Specific money laundering and terrorism financing operations consist of more seemingly unrelated activities that make up the whole, so if we don't have information on all activities, it is very difficult to inspect the complete operation [15]. The efficient system of countering money laundering and financing terrorism in global frameworks, weakens the capacity of terrorist and criminal organisations to reach a certain degree of operational capacity at all. It should be borne in mind that the disruption of funding of terrorist organisations is only one of the aspects of an efficient system of

opposing modern terrorism. In this regard, it is crucial to define unique measures to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism on a national and international level, allowing the collapse of the financial levers of power of criminal and terrorist organisations. Money laundering, among other things, directly provides financial means for terrorism, corruption, organized criminal and similar activities of endangering human, national and international security.

4. Conclusion

In order to cover up traces of the funds intended to fund terrorist activities or represent a part of the criminal profits of organized crime, criminal structures resort to money laundering, and then redirect these funds in the direction of achieving their goals. As financial means create the basis for the development of terrorist and criminal networks and for the capacity to carry out criminal activities, the methods of concealing sources, destinations and utilization of funds intended for its financing are constantly changed and improved.

The international response to the problems of countering money laundering and financing terrorism, in large part, is a response to the fact that it is a global phenomenon. Specifically, terrorist and criminal organisations abuse the world's system of finances, international trade flows, modern transportation and communication aspects, technological achievements and accelerated flow of information, goods, services and people in the legalisation of criminal profits and financing terrorist activities.

Money laundering of criminal organizations and terrorist financing is usually composed of several seemingly unrelated activities that make up the whole, so if we do not have information about all activities, it is very difficult to inspect the complete operation. As regards operations of exceptional complexity, solving these problems requires a high degree of international cooperation and coordination, as well as the incorporation of international legal acts from this area into the legal system of states, and the active participation of their security systems in the work of international organizations.

The aim of developing efficient models of international cooperation at the operational and strategic level should allow for identification, monitoring and evaluation of properties intended to finance terrorism or dissemination of the impact of organized crime, application of measures such as freezing and seized to prevent any conduct, transfer or disposal of these funds and undertaking all relevant research activities. The results of an efficient system of opposing money laundering and financing terrorism in global frameworks are the weakening of the capacity of terrorist and criminal organisations to reach at all the level that allows them to achieve the goals of terrorist and criminal structures. Of course, the disruption of financing terrorist and criminal organisations is just one of the "links in the chain" of an efficient system of opposing these global security challenges.

5. Literature

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