

CONNECTION BETWEEN ORGANIZED CRIME AND TERRORISM AS A NEW SECURITY THREAT

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Abstract: *In the era of globalization, crime is a worldwide problem and threat. There is no country in the world which could be privileged and protected against the problems initiated by terrorism and organized crime. These two evils could endanger the country's security from the outside or inside.*

Organized crime, as a form of danger to the internal security of a country, spreads around as an octopus and reaches the neighbouring countries. It spreads wider and becomes a threat for all the countries, which are part of the contemporary international community.

Terrorism as an extended hand of organized crime, being politically motivated, is a reality we all live in and it is a worldwide threat. Its main pattern is to create a feeling of instability and insecurity within the individual as well as within the country.

The aim of this paper is to describe the main characteristics of these modern evils, to stress their connection and networking and at the same time to point out the correlation between them.

Key word: *organized crime, terrorism, threat, security, correlation.*

INTRODUCTION

The history of mankind more or less had always been marked with violence³. Crime has existed since people were first organized in a form of state. It first appeared as a group of activities and behaviours, which attacked and endangered the fundamental human values (life and personal integrity) freedom and rights, property and security. It also affects fundamental social values such as the constitution and security of the country and its significant institutions.⁴ Crime developed with the development of the society. Significant changes have happened in terms of organizing crime.

Crime has expanded with the development of the benefits of globalization and liberalization of economy, with greater mobility of people, and with the intensified flow of goods and services. Crime developed into a new form of internationalism and acquired a form of transnational organized crime. This form of crime has the ability of adjustment. It could not

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³ Petrovik, D. Organizing evil groups, Belgrade, 1996, pg. 2.

⁴ Petrovik, D. Meshko G. Criminology, Faculty of Law, Sarajevo, 2008, pg20.

only adjust to the circumstances within the country, but within the global international changes with the primary aim to conquer new territories, markets, partners and roads.⁵

The connection between organized crime and terrorism is a threat for the security of any country. It is very important to stress that the connection between these two types of crime is based on a strong financial bond.

Terrorist actions are financed by: criminal activities, supporting countries directly financing terrorism, individuals who are supporters due to various reasons and motives, assistance from other terrorist organizations, and a combination of all mentioned sources. The most profitable financial resources are: human trafficking, drugs trafficking, weapons trafficking, human organs trafficking, organized form of prostitution, trafficking hazardous materials, nuclear materials, radioactive waste, chemical and biological agents, money laundry, financial frauds, etc.⁶

The connection between organized crime and terrorism cannot be separately observed, in the same manner as isolated crime activities. Both types follow certain patterns of interaction, both phenomena have international (transnational) character of being very highly organized and corrupted, as well as planned, well thought of and operate permanently with an obvious synergy.⁷

Characteristics of Organized Crime

The term organized crime was used for the first time at the beginning of the XVII century in Great Britain to characterize the illegal action of a crime gang, keeping the same characteristics up to the present day. Namely, organized crime gives individuals, united in a crime gang, a chance to gain a long-term profit through illegal acts and to gain support from their organization or even from the government.⁸ Organized crime is the strongest non-military threat to humanity. The countries which are in transition and have very weak legislation system and poor economy are the most fertile ground for organized crime.

The United Nations definition of transnational crime, adopted in Palermo in 2000, refers to serious criminal acts as: corruption, money laundry, and suppression of the judiciary operation, and gives organized crime the following characteristics⁹:

a) Organized crime is an organized group with a long-term operation and consists of at least three members who work together towards achieving a mutual goal, i.e. committing serious criminal acts in order to gain material profit.

b) Serious form of a criminal act is the one committed by the organization, for which the most severe sentence could be four or more years of imprisonment.

c) Organized group does not refer to an accidentally formed group to commit crime and whose members do not have precise and defined roles.¹⁰

⁵ Shkulik, M. Organized Crime – Definition and legal aspects, File, Belgrade, 2003, pg. 13.

⁶ Shikman, M. Terrorism, High School of Internal Affairs, Banja Luka, 2009, pg. 50.

⁷ Passas, N. Transnational Crime, Ashgate Pub Co, 1999, p 400

⁸ Mijalkovski, M. Terrorism and Organized Crime, Faculty of Security, Belgrade, 2010, pg. 115.

⁹ Labovik, M. Nikolovski, M. Organized Crime and Corruption, Skopje, 2010, pg. 59.

¹⁰ United Nation Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Palermo, Italy, 12-15 December 2000

The European Union defines organized crime through the following four criteria:

- ✓ Cooperation of at least three individuals,
- ✓ Long-term operation of the group,
- ✓ The group commits serious criminal acts,
- ✓ The aim of the group is gaining profit and power.

The organized form of a criminal group could be also viewed through the internal discipline of the members of the group. They act through engaging force and other forms of extortion, blackmailing and other forms of threat. The aim of their activities is to influence politics, mass media, public administration and legislative authorities.

The Council of Europe defines crime in the recommendations of principles for fighting organized crime in the following manner: illegal activity executed by a structured group of three or more individuals, who operate on a long-term basis and whose aim is through organized crime, with carefully planned acts, to apply extortion, violence, corruption and other forms of action directly or indirectly, to gain financial or other forms of profit.¹¹

Organized crime can be defined as an organized criminal activity of a group of three or more individuals with a long-term operation of committing serious criminal acts. These acts could be organized on different levels through illegal businesses, investing criminally incurred profits in legal businesses, or through other forms of legal transactions, which influence the state administration, police, judiciary and politics, which in certain circumstances may be under full control of organized crime, which implies direct involvement of the governmental–political structures, leading to a total control of certain media and nongovernmental organizations. The methods of violence are applied in case the perfidy methods of suppression and corruption do not lead to the expected outcome.¹²

It is evident that there is no single definition, which defines organized crime or in other words there are as many definitions as there are authors doing research on crime. There is a consensus, however, that this form of crime is a serious security problem and refers to an organized group, which commits serious crime, for profit and power, and in order to survive it uses violence and other forms of extortion, and it is tightly connected with the government through corruption, blackmailing, and extortion. Organized crime is easily adjustable to socio economic and political conditions, and uses its power to take full advantage of the legislative ambiguities, as well as all beneficial circumstances of economic and administrative actions in all other areas of society.

The programme platform of organized criminal groups is making profit, acquiring power, and establishing a monopoly at a minimum risk. The monopoly could be intended for a certain territory (region, country, city, or part of a city) where the “group” is the absolute owner and potentate. The organized group applies different methods when

¹¹ Recommendation Rec (2001) 11 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States Concerning Guiding Principles on the Fight Against Organised Crime, Council of Europe, 19 September 2001, p.6.

¹² Labovik, M., Nikolovski, M. Organized Crime and Corruption, Skopje, 2010, pg. 59.

influencing authorities and individuals, who are responsible for law enforcement – they start with corruptive offers, and continue with threats, incriminations, etc.

As soon as the organized group gets financially strong, it connects to the higher layers of authority and comes closer to political structures aiming at influencing the legislation and making other significant decisions. The group usually speaks its own language, it operates according to its own laws, it has its own tradition, it applies its own methods and techniques, or in other words it establishes its own highly specialized machinery to attack people. It also has its own property and it practices unique defence methods.¹³

Organized crime can be differentiated from classical crime according to the following characteristics:

- increase of recidivism,
- increase of professionalism,
- specialization in delinquency,
- misuse of technical achievements,
- emergence of new criminal actions (money laundry, racketeering, paedophilia, human organs trafficking, porn industry),
- secrecy of the organization and its actions,
- internationalization,
- low efficiency of the judiciary,
- increase of the expenses of the judiciary,
- aspiration for economic and political power,
- permanent connection of a larger network of individuals,
- planned activities based on labour division,
- use of different forms of intimidation (threats, blackmailing, racketeering, and terrorizing)
- sharing profit,
- corruption of business structures,
- influence on public media,
- influence on the administration of justice and court,
- huge expansion (profit is the driving force of economy investments, so they expand in new regions),
- big “dark number”.¹⁴

Types of organized crime

Typology of organized crime is a very complex issue. The structure of different criminal groups is a crucial criterion for categorization. According to the results gained from the project conducted by The Centre for International Crime Prevention within the

¹³ Boskovik, M. Organized Crime and Corruption, High School of Internal Affairs, Banja Luka, 2004, pg. 32-35.

¹⁴ Labovik, M., Nikolovski, M. Organized Crime and Corruption”, Skopje, 2010, pg. 60-61.

United Nations the term transnational organized crime is introduced. This type of crime could be classified in five groups.¹⁵

Standard hierarchy– is a type of organized crime which features independence, hierarchical placement of the members, and activities according to a firm internal discipline. The group is led by a leader with a clear hierarchical placement. The internal discipline is strict, with a precise labour division, and internal code of behaviour. The number of the members could vary from a few to hundreds. Representatives of the standard hierarchy are: Chinese, Russian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian groups, and other similar groups.

Regional hierarchy- has strong levels of control and discipline, but it is autonomous in terms of the regional component. This type of organization is characterized by a big number of members and associates. This type of groups is engaged in multistage criminal activities. The leader of the organization is anonymous to the members because of the utmost conspiracy of the organization. Representatives of this type of organization are: Asian criminal groups (Jamaguchi – Gumi), Australian (Japanese Jacuzzi), and groups from India.

Group hierarchy -led by a managerial supervising body. This group organizes itself according to a standard type of hierarchy. Group hierarchy is formed as a result of division of the market in which the criminal group operates and the members of the separated groups are members of the big organization.

Core hierarchy - consists of a limited number of members bonded in a firm structure of action. This type of organization could be joined by a temporary member who is assigned for special tasks. Core hierarchy type of organization is usually small with around 20 members. Internal discipline is very strong. This is the most common type of organized forms.

Criminal network - gathers around a series of criminal projects. It consists of the actions of key individuals, specialists in their fields, and when it comes to higher level targets they make alliances with other organizations.¹⁶

Adjustability to all kinds of circumstances is the fundament of the existence and development of organized crime. It is anticipated that new forms of criminal groups will occur in the future.

Forms of organized crime

The form of organized crime refers to the criminal area of action of criminal groups, i.e. which criminal acts are the focus of the organized criminal group.

¹⁵ Stojik, Lj.Mijalkovik, S. Security Aspects of Organized Crime,Anthology of papers, Civil Defense Faculty, Belgrade,2004, pg. 52.

¹⁶ Stojik, Lj.Mijalkovik, S. Security Aspects of Organized Crime,Anthology of papers, Civil Defense Faculty, Belgrade,2004, pg. 57.

The most common forms of actions are: human trafficking, drugs trafficking, money laundry, corruption, and other business areas with valuable goods which can bring profit undertaking minimal risk. When accomplishing their goals, criminals take the maximum advantage of poorly controlled territories, weak legislative administration, and use a high level of corruption. They use violence and life threats, against anybody and everybody who may be an obstacle in achieving their goals.

Human trafficking

This “modern form of slavery” is driven by the extra profit and minimal risk factor. Human trafficking takes place in many countries and it is an international security problem which requires professional cooperation of all subjects of the international community.¹⁷

Human trafficking is a very complex process which operates in a few phases: recruiting, transportation and exploitation. The perpetrators may be one or more criminal groups, and the operation can take place in one or more countries.¹⁸

The perpetrators have a well-developed recruiting strategy using public, semi-covered and covered methods. The Recruitment policy functions through suspicious commercials advertising attractive offers about employment opportunities abroad. The victim finds out that it is a hoax when it is too late. At the beginning the victim accepts the conditions of work and the agreement is based on a mutual interest. In the advanced phases, the situation drastically changes harming the victim. Cases of violent kidnappings and ransom claim from the parents are not excluded. In case of smuggling emigrants there is a partnership interest of both parties.

After accomplishing the transport of people, criminal groups deliver the victims or accept them and enslave them, control and later on exploit them. The enslaving of the victims begins with persuading them that they are in a subordinate and deadlock situation and it proceeds by applying physical and mental violence methods. Exploitation could have different forms: selling the victims to other groups, sexual and labour exploitation, illegal children adoption, forced marriages and human organs trafficking.¹⁹

This kind of trafficking brings huge profits and is a serious global threat. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce incrimination of national legislation, as well as of international conventions and protocols for fighting transnational organized crime.

Narcotics-crime

Smuggling narcotics is the most profitable organized crime business. It has been estimated to be 4/5 of the total profit of criminal organizations²⁰. There is a growth of drugs smuggling activities regarding the expansion of the territory and the type of drug which is being smuggled.²¹

¹⁷ Developing Strategies on Human Trafficking, Views – 2, Belgrade Police Academy, 2003, pg. 46-47.

¹⁸ Banovik, B. Human Trafficking and Human Rights Protection, Belgrade Police Academy, 2003, pg. 73-83.

¹⁹ Mijalkovik, S. Human Trafficking, BeoSing, Belgrade, 2005, pg. 194-242.

²⁰ KotovchevkiMitko, Security as state function –part 1, Skopje, pg. 369.

²¹ Boskovik, M. Organized Crime and Corruption, High School of Internal Affairs, Banja Luka, 2004, pg.99- 100

According to the World report on drugs of 2000, drugs are a “global phenomenon”, because this action is committed on international, national and local level.

The activities performed on international level are numerous, large and risky. There are a number of organized groups who operate by delegating tasks. Some of them deal with the production, other with transport, and third ones that deal with the distribution, using the worldwide networking channels. The following table provides data on the Macedonian Customs annual drugs confiscation.²²

Year	Type of drug	Amount	Total
2014	Heroin	22 kilograms	149 kilograms
	Marihuana	126 kilograms	
	Methamentaphine	96 pieces	
	Amphetamine	1 kilogram	
2013	Heroin	13,834 kilograms	946,021 kilograms
	Marihuana	933,187 kilograms	
	Amphetamine	4 pills	
2012	Heroin	62,6 kilograms	821 kilograms
	Marihuana	630,5 kilograms	
	Methadone	1278 pills	
	Acetone	50 kilograms	
	Psilocin	70 kilograms	
	Chlorine hydrogen acid	8 kilograms	
2011	Heroin	800 kilograms	809 kilograms
	Hashish	1 kilogram	
	Marihuana	6 kilograms	
2010	Heroin	2 kilograms	2 kilograms
	Ecstasy	64 pills	

Narcotics crime includes delegation of tasks and roles of organization, financiers, producers, distributors, transporters and dealers. Big mafia cartels are on the top of the ladder of international wholesale stores, and then come the medium dealers, who are in charge of certain regions or cities and on the last step are the street dealers in direct contact with drug addicts. A large number of middlemen are involved in drug trafficking,

²² The situation is more than obvious and this is only the confiscated amount of drugs. One question is, whether the Macedonian customs manages to impound the total amount of drugs which transits Macedonia, as well as at what price was the drugs that transited Macedonia sold. According to some estimates, 10% of the total amount of drugs transiting Macedonia stays in Macedonia. Taking into consideration that the cost of one gram of heroin equals the cost of one gram of gold, it becomes clear what amount of money criminals, who run this kind of business, earn, as well as their impact on the population in the country and the society as a whole.

and they are closely connected with other illegal activities. Each middleman raises the price, causing a big difference between the initial and final market price.

Drugs trafficking operates under the same economy market rules. Price varies depending on the supply and demand, and most importantly it is determined by the quality of the goods.²³

Narcotics criminals are very well organized, equipped, resourceful and professional. The chief organizer of a drugs channel is in charge of the budget, quantity and the group of dealers. The mafia owns funds that well exceed the national annual income of a smaller country. The funds of narcotics crime are relocated to terrorist organizations or rebellious movements, within which dealers of narcotics are again in pursuit of new “zones of influence.”

Money laundry

Each type of organized crime operates illegally and its main goal is making profit. Money made in this way gets the real value when it is introduced into the legal economic flows. This is the reason why criminals undertake different operations known as money laundry.²⁴ The core of the criminal act known as money laundry is transforming the illegal money into legal. The process of transformation could be divided in three phases:

- ✓ *Phase one – investment and distribution.* This phase includes the selection of a country and a bank which will conduct the transaction so that the connection between the money and the illegal acts is interrupted. This could be performed in different ways: often by opening an individual bank account for legal banking. It could be also done by registering fictive business entities, who do not have any business activities. The last is by presenting profit by winning lottery or via betting.
- ✓ *Phase two – stratifying or camouflaging.* Criminal money is usually imported in countries with no strict monetary control, and they are invested in order to conceal the source and further complicate the transfer, and prevent the investigation procedure. This is called financial terrorism, because if “dirty” money is abruptly transferred, the bank, and the country’s economy collapses.
- ✓ *Third phase – integration.* When “dirty” money is integrated into legal businesses and their origin is entirely covered up²⁵.

Money laundry is well organized, professional and intellectual action, which affects all countries in the world. The most important issue for those committing the “operations” is not to reveal the origin and the owner of the money. Cash money has to change its form into something valuable and part of the money could be used for financing terrorist actions. The fight against money laundry includes: bankers, computer and financial experts, who have great experience in this sophisticated banking – financial sphere²⁶.

²³ Simovik, B., Pena, U. Criminology, Faculty of Law, Sarajevo, 2010, pg. 661-662.

²⁴ Mijalkovski, M. Terrorism and Organized Crime, Belgrade, 2010, pg. 155-159.

²⁵ Kotovchevski, M. Ibid, pg. 378-380.

²⁶ Kotovchevski, M. Transnational Organized Crime, Globalization, Peace and Security, Skopje, 2008, pg. 83 - 98.

Corruption

Corruption is a form of a negative socio-economic occurrence in all the countries in the world, easily adaptable to all political and economic aspects²⁷. If corruption is the most suitable way of operation for organized crime, then organized crime is extended hand of corruption. Corruption is not the only form of organized crime, but it is its best developed phase, followed by “state in a state” phase. This means a complete criminalization of the political and economic system of a country and the country transforms into a criminal organization²⁸.

In order to operate on long terms, organized crime should establish a correlation with a certain corrupted authority structure. Both types of crime rely on each other because there is no organized crime without corruption, and the authorities could not be corrupted without organized crime. The actors of corruption are the authority representatives, “white collar” officials, and in case they are highly productive in corruptive operations they become a “shadow government” closely bonded with the system of organized crime.

There is no generally accepted definition of corruption on a global level, although there have been attempts of unified definition. According to the Civil Law Convention of the Council of Europe, corruption is defined as: seeking, offering, giving bribe or other illegal benefit or opportunity, which disrupts the execution of duty. In essence, it refers to breach of official duty, position or authority in order to gain illegal profit²⁹.

³⁰The thesis on the relation between organized crime and corruption is commonly accepted – wherever there is organized crime there is corruption, but it is not necessarily the case that there is organized crime wherever there is corruption. None of the forms of organized crime can operate for a longer period of time if they are not connected to the government. The relation between the two is sharing profit. The higher the position of the government officials, the more secure the criminal actions are.

There are various methods of recruiting government officials in corruptive deals: by active bribing with material and non-material favours. If the first “offer” is rejected, blackmailing is used by publishing incriminating materials. If this fails, the following steps are extortion and life threats to their lives and the lives of their family members so that the government officials would voluntarily give in and agree with the criminals’ intentions.³¹

²⁷ Kotovchevski, M. *Transnational Organized Crime, Globalization, Peace and Security*, Skopje, 2008, pg. 647.

²⁸ Labovik, M. Nikolovski, M. *Organized Crime and Corruption*, Skopje, 2001, pg.111.

²⁹ Boshkovik, M. *Transnational Organized Crime*, Belgrade, 2003, pg. 49.

³⁰ Labovik, M. Nikolovski, M. *Organized Crime and Corruption*, Skopje, 2001, pg.112 – 115.

³¹ Labovik, M. Nikolovski, M. *Organized Crime and Corruption*, Skopje, 2001, pg.115

TERRORISM AS A SECURITY THREAT

There are various opinions and attitudes when it comes to terrorism; that is why there is no unified definition. The origin of the word terrorism is from the Latin word *terror*, which means nightmare, fear, tremble, or ruling by intimidation. Speaking about the historical origin of terrorism, there is a great number of authors who believe that it started with the beginning of class society, the establishing of the state as an institution, the purpose of which was to protect the interests of the ruling class. Other authors connect the origin of terrorism with religious-political sects zeloti (shikara) in antic Jerusalem, i.e. the beginning of the Muslim sects (assassin) in early feudalism. A big number of authors connect terrorism with the France's bourgeoisie revolution, or more precisely to Jacobin dictatorship. The definition we use today originates from 1794, after the fall of Robespierre³².

After the Second World War, terrorism remained a complex form of political violence which became a dominant power in the last decades on the territories of the Middle East and the Near East, Europe and America. There have been several attempts to declare terrorism as an extremely dangerous social threat, i.e. international criminal act, in order to provide extradition, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators, as early as the League of Nations 1937. The Convention on Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism was passed following the efforts invested by USA in the period from 1972 to 1977, as the sole world agreement for fighting terrorism; however, these efforts did not yield the expected results. The analysis of the origin of terrorism should rely on the following aspects: political, ideological, socio-economic, social, religious, geopolitical and geostrategic problems.³³

Modern science puts a lot of effort in unifying the definition of terrorism. The problem is related to various aspects taken into consideration when defining terrorism. According to these aspects those who commit a terrorist attack are terrorists, freedom fighters or human rights fighters. UN does not have a unified definition of terrorism; however, it signifies certain acts and behaviours of groups and individuals as terrorist acts in numerous conventions, declarations and protocols.

According to the 2002 European Union framework for fight against terrorism, terrorism is defined as a deliberate violent act, which could damage a country or an international organization. According to law, these acts are illegal and their purpose is intimidation of the population and forcing the government or international organization not to act against the goals of the terrorist organization.

The USA federal collection of regulations defines terrorism as illegal use of power or extortion against people and property aiming at threatening and forcing the government, population, civilian population or part of the population for attaining certain political or social objectives.

³² Miloshevik, M. Fighting against Terrorism, World of books, Belgrade, 2005, pg.5

³³ Miloshevik, M. Fighting against Terrorism, World of books, Belgrade, 2005, pg.5

Illegal use of violence by groups, who have a lower status in society, creates a feeling of fear when attacking individuals or symbolic targets, turning the public attention for accomplishing their goals, provokes a strong community reaction.³⁴

Major centres of gravity of terrorism are listed below:

- ✓ Enormous economic gap between poor and rich countries,
- ✓ Civilization and cultural gap between nations on both religious and national level,
- ✓ Religious fanaticism and fundamentalism,
- ✓ National – separatist and irredentist tendencies,
- ✓ Ideological – political antagonism,
- ✓ Long-term geopolitical and geostrategic national interests of big world powers,
- ✓ Political and social reasons of smaller social communities, etc.³⁵

Main characteristics of terrorism:

- ✓ Act of violence – any terrorist attack is an act of violence, which includes brutal use of force by different means and ways to cause a psychological effect.
- ✓ Causing fear and other kinds of psychological reactions, such as anxiety and terror.
- ✓ Achieving political goals.
- ✓ Delivering a specific message. The message could be sent to: victims, targets or supporters.
- ✓ Being organized is perceived through the established organization with continual and systematic operation.
- ✓ Brutality, immorality and irrationality when operating, lacking moral, cultural, social and other norms.
- ✓ The selection of victims and targets is directly connected to the message delivered by the terrorist attack.
- ✓ Illegality of the terrorist attack in accordance with international and internal legal norms.
- ✓ Public condemnation is an act that follows the terrorist attack.³⁶

The list above is not a final list of the characteristics of terrorism, because each terrorist attack has its own characteristics and at the same time it creates new ones.

Types of terrorism

The complexity, dynamics and the numerous forms of operation put terrorism in a big number of classifications based on various criteria. According to Milan Mijalkovski, terrorism is classified as: active subjects (executors), passive subjects (victims) and observers.

³⁴ John, Bailey, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens, Globalization of World Politics, Skopje, 2009, pg. 588.

³⁵ Labovik, M. Nikolovski, M. Organized Crime and Corruption, Skopje, 2010. Pg. 120-122.

³⁶ Mijalkovski, M. Terrorism, Faculty for Civil Defense, Belgrade, 2004, pg. 5.

Dragan Simeunovik gives the following classification:³⁷

- According to targets
 - ❖ Ideology motivated terrorism – leftist and right-wing terrorism
 - ❖ Terrorism of ethnic separation
 - ❖ Terrorism based on religion– sects terrorism and terrorism of the dominant religions
- According to the means and methods of operation
 - ❖ Classical conventional type
 - ❖ Biochemical terrorism
 - ❖ Nuclear terrorism
 - ❖ Self-sacrifice terrorism
 - ❖ Cyber terrorism
 - ❖ Narcotics terrorism
- According to perpetrators of terrorist attacks
 - individual terrorism
 - terrorist organization
 - institutional terrorism

CORRELATION BETWEEN ORGANIZED CRIME AND TERRORISM

Reviewing the facts on organized crime and terrorism in order to identify the common features, we arrive at the conclusion that the two are in fact two sides of one medal. Both can endanger security of a country or even the whole international community. A great number of researchers, who study these two modern phenomena, believe that terrorism is one of the forms of organized crime.³⁸ The main characteristics of both terrorism and organized crime are: inconsideration, brutality, organization, professionalism, secrecy, gaining profit with minimum risk, confirm the hypotheses that these two phenomena share the same bases of operation. Namely, both of them operate through organized groups, who are both criminal and terrorist. There is no difference in the way they operate because both entities make alliances very easily. Although motivated by different interests, the initial point of terrorists and organized criminals for making alliances refers to the judgment of how successful the actions of organized criminals are when dealing with the state, as their common enemy. Organized crime aims towards taking over the financial power of the country, whereas terrorists aim at taking over the political power of the country.

Terrorism and organized crime are secret criminal organization of a number of individuals, who voluntarily agree to commit planned and systematic criminal actions against the vital values of the country in accomplishing their objectives. Terrorists announce

³⁷ Simeunovik, D. Terrorism, Faculty of Law, Belgrade, 2009, pg. 82-85.

³⁸ Labovik, M. Nikolovski, M. Organized Crime and Corruption, Skopje, 2010, pg. 115

their political aim, claiming that their operation is extorted. They do so intending to attract the supporters and to show their determination in reaching their goals. Terrorism is based on armed violence on political targets, which they announce publicly. If they consider that their violent operation could positively influence on a certain form of organized crime, they establish business relations with the leaders of these organized crime groups or they directly commit the organized crime act.

Unlike terrorists, organized criminal groups conceal their objectives and political ambitions, although their operation is very tightly related to politics, and if it is not prevented, it could initiate a desire for political power. They extend their power throughout the country, using corrupted politicians aiming at taking over power from the state, and establishing a parallel authorities.

It is a fact that organized crime, the main interest of which is material profit, could turn into terrorist organization seeking political power, and subsequently creating its own ideology. On the other hand, terrorist organizations, seeking financial power, could start operating on the “black market” and become involved in the competence of organized crime.

The cooperation between terrorists and organized criminals is strictly professional.³⁹ This cooperation is shown in the charts below:⁴⁰

Criteria for distinction	Organized crime	Terrorism
Motives	Material benefit	Ideological – political
Operators	Groups, organizations, countries, treaties between countries	Groups, organizations, countries, treaties between countries
Relationship with the country	Corruption, infiltration, selective fights	Clashes, change of constitution, taking over the authority
Timing of operation	Constant existence and operation	Until goals are achieved
Methods of operation	Non-violent and covert non-violent	Violence
Consequences of operation	Aspires towards invisible outcomes of operation	Visible outcomes of operation
Expansion	Present in all countries	Not present in all countries

Conclusion

A conclusion could be drawn from the above that organized crime and terrorism are the dark side of modern living. Our estimate brings us to a conclusion that these two evils nest in weak countries and countries that are about to fall apart. The relation between these great evils is strong and does not only affect individual countries, but it is a global issue; an issue, which requires a

³⁹ Mijalkovski, M. Terrorism and Organized Crime, Faculty of Security, 2010, pg. 223 – 225.

⁴⁰ Mijalkovik, S. Bajagik, M. Organized Crime and Terrorism, Crime-Police Academy, Belgrade, 2012, pg. 521.

lasting and unified regulation, decisive and determined action for its prevention. There is no single country, which could individually protect itself and guarantee the security of its citizens. These are global security issues, which should not be considered in isolation, and all aspects should be taken into consideration.

Terrorism is a multilayered threat to all the countries in the world. For some countries it is only a threat or a risk, whereas for others it is a prospective threat, and for third it is an actual security threat. Modern terrorism could be defined as a special kind of aggression, which requires strong anti-terrorist response, including decisive measures and activities for repressing it in its "roots".

Terrorism can vividly be portrayed as cancer. If even a single metastasis is left, it starts generating new cells and grows again. Measures such as information gathering, normative regulation of the activities for fighting terrorism, education and physical readiness of those who fight terrorism should be on the highest level. Since terrorism does not accept insinuations, the fight against it on a global level must be decisive and in the spirit of constant improvement and development. Thus, lessons learned should constantly be reviewed and improved.

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3. Shikman, M. Terrorism, High school of Internal Affairs, Banja Luka, 2009
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