

Committee: 6th Committee of the General Assembly (Legal)
Topic : Combating Transnational and Transborder Crime.
Country : Hungary
Delegate Name: Betul SITKI

COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL AND TRANSBORDER CRIME

One of the most serious unintended consequences of the globalization that we have been experiencing for the last few years has been the rapid rise of transnational organized crime groups.

Parallel to the general rise in property crime during the transnational period following the political changes in 1989, national and transnational organized crime also expanded and became visible to the public. By the mid 1990's, the range of activity of criminal gangs in Hungary had become extensive which means that it had become to be very large. Indeed, along with other authorities in Eastern and Central Europe, Hungary has become an important cross-roads for transnational organized crime. Although organized crime exists in several cities, Szeged which is the third largest city in Hungary has become known as "Mafia City" because of the prevalence of organized crime there. Much of the activity is centered in and around Budapest, which is the capital city of Hungary. The ideal location of Budapest- which has excellent transportation and communication links to both east and west- has accelerated the development of international criminal cooperation and the penetration of Hungary by foreign criminal organizations. Most of the Mafias of Eastern Europe (Russian, Ukrainian, Serbian, Bulgarian) are thought to have branch offices in Budapest. By imitating legal business, these networks have acquired local partners to enable the construction of a truly transnational network of criminal gangs.

Organized Crime has developed through three stages in Hungary. The first signs were evident in the 1970's when the police successfully identified and acted against several groups involved in criminal activities organized on the basis of blood relationship. The structure, organization and methods of these groups resembled those of the Italian Mafia, although they were generally less powerful and much smaller in reach than their Italian counterparts.

By the first half of the 1980's, criminal groups which were not primarily based upon family allegiances (loyalty) began to appear. They were mainly involved in property crime and in the destruction of stolen property, but according to the police sources, by 1984-1985, also began to convert proceeds of crime into legal enterprises.

The third phase of this development was radically affected by the change of regime in 1989-1990. The further privatization which refers to changing something from state to private ownership or control of property meant that those who had acquired considerable financial resources could more easily put their money into business and obtain concessions to operate more openly in the economic domain.

Their influence is also said to have extended into public law, politics and international relations. In addition, the productive conditions provided by the opening of borders to foreign visitors and refugees, and the problems of unemployment and inflation which means an increase in prices served to fuel the growth of organized crime.