Violent extremism: the last stop
Prableen Kaur

Corruption in the health care systems
Margot I. Witvliet

Citizens destabilizing the power of Mafia
Renato Accorinti and Federico Alagna
Ci succede tutto davanti alla faccia, ma non ci tocca.
Finché non ti capita.
Sulla pelle le gocce di pioggia, ma sarebbe che c’era anche il mio sangue. Meno male che pioveva, se no oggi non potrei più guardare il sole.
Grida e silenzio. Un uomo che passa e va via.
Il corpo trattato come pezzo di niente. Ma come si fa?
La paura impietrisce le gambe ma non fermerà la mia voce...
Forse, un giorno qualcuno capirà e non avrò più paura, perché le strade saranno della gente, gente come me, come te.

IO NON SONO VITTIMA
I AM NOT A VICTIM

The initiative aims to give voice to the victims of Naples through the collection of their stories and to make their experiences the starting point for the implementation of an awareness campaign to promote future interventions on prevention, development and assistance.

For information: per-napoli@unicri.it
LIGHT ON - Cross-community actions for combating the modern symbolism and languages of racism and discrimination

Symbols and words can be dangerous vehicles which lead to the dissemination of racism worldwide. Their impact is especially noteworthy nowadays as technology rapidly diffuses them through digital and social channels and amplifies the ways in which they can influence people’s lives.
Freedom From Fear Magazine
Issue n.9

Destabilization

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The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.

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Destabilization: the threat to the “Global Village”

In the last years, academic enquiry and political actions have progressively focused their attention on risk management, particularly the evaluation of risks and vulnerabilities. Destabilizing factors, often associated with rapid urbanization, the extensive and often abusive exploitation of natural resources and advances in technologies, have improved human conditions while contributing to unpredictable vulnerabilities. For example, the benefits of the Internet have been mitigated by the operations of cyber criminals. In the “global village”, the digital age has further enhanced the interdependence and interconnectivity between communities and countries.

The growing complexity of the changing landscapes call for a rethinking of the conceptual approaches and strategies to address the threats and vulnerabilities arising from environmental, socio-economic and political settings of the global, digital village. Approaches to support stable societies, able to manage risks and vulnerabilities, should be refined to address the challenges of innovation and globalization. Cultural changes that can generate a real reform are needed to mitigate risks and adjust to a constantly changing environment. This is particularly true in the field of organized crime: crime syndicates are constantly adjusting to the changing environment and redirecting their focus and interests towards vulnerable areas in search of new “business” opportunities and profit.

This issue of Freedom From Fear serves as a platform to share different perspectives on some of the most critical destabilizing factors such as violent extremism, corruption, organized criminal networks and environmental crime. In doing so it seeks to provide useful inputs to the culture of change while emphasizing the importance of risk management – and the central role of citizens and civil society in addressing threats to their communities.

This issue also covers topics which are often not given the attention they deserve; their adverse impact, meanwhile, affect the lives of citizens, communities and relations between countries.

The Institute is grateful to the contributors to this issue of Freedom from Fear magazine for sharing their innovative thinking on “destabilization” as challenges to peace, security and development in the global village.

Jonathan Lucas
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Are “drugs” the consequence of economic and political destabilizing factors?</td>
<td>Doris Buddenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Corruption undermines health care systems: a human rights issue</td>
<td>Margot I. Witvliet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>When citizens start destabilizing the power of mafia</td>
<td>Renato Accorinti and Federico Alagna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>The value of natural capital: a risk or an opportunity?</td>
<td>Franca Roiatti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Illicit trafficking of precious metals and its destabilizing factors in systems of affected countries</td>
<td>Peter Bishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Environmental crime and instability: the role of criminal networks in the trafficking and illegal dumping of hazardous waste</td>
<td>Valentina Baiamonte and Elise Vermeersch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Contemporary racism across Europe</td>
<td>Veronica Bajt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Destabilizing factors in urban settings: explaining violence and social disorganization in Ciudad Juarez</td>
<td>Robert Muggah and Carlos Vilalta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Lebanese emigration: Lebanon’s loss is the rest of the world’s gain!</td>
<td>Erik Chiniara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Photo**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Photo reportage</td>
<td>Fabio Cuttica</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interview

Albinism in Africa: interview with Stéphane Ebongue Koube
Hana Abul Husn and Marina Mazzini

Infocus

The death penalty: a child rights issue and a public health issue
Helen Kearney

Webcam child sex tourism
Raffaele K Salinari

The last stop
Prableen Kaur

China’s commitment to the United Nations Convention against Corruption
Giovanni Nicotera

Rethinking security governance: a new security architecture
Francesco Marelli

Dossier

Tackling cyber crime and cyber terrorism through a methodological approach
Babak Akhgar and Andrew Staniforth

Library

UNICRI’s Library selection

Agenda

International events
Are “drugs” the consequence of economic and political destabilizing factors?

By Doris Buddenberg

Every society and culture has the stimulants and intoxicants it deserves, needs and tolerates. Since hallowed antiquity, alcohol has been THE intoxicant for the western culture. Alcohol is so much part of the culture that few can imagine life without it. Aside from stating this fact, can the link between drugs and culture be developed further? Some examples might help to clarify the concepts and categories that would allow a closer look at the interdependence between drugs and culture.

When heroin made its appearance in Pakistan in the 1980s, it is rumoured that connections between the cocaine dealers of Columbia and the local heroin dealers led to an exchange of their commodities. Thus in the 1980s, cocaine became available in Karachi during certain festivities. However, as one participant observed: “It could rain cocaine in Pa-
Pakistan; but we would never take to it.” What is the reason for the rejection — valid until today — of cocaine, a strong stimulant drug, in Pakistani culture? The only explanation appears to lie in the contradiction between the effects of the drug and the cultural norms of the country. Cocaine, an extreme confidence enhancing drug which leads to perceive self-importance as linked to the talkative intrusion of the user into the personal space of others, is at odds with traditional Pakistani culture which values personal space and understated social interaction.

There is a substantial difference between the public perception and media reporting about affluent cocaine loving high flyers and opiate dependent poor youths

Why has the use of methamphetamine pills skyrocketed in Southeast Asian countries in recent decades? They are discrete, clean and easy to swallow, easy to hide; there is no treacherous smoke or paraphernalia, and they have the effect of accelerating perceptions and enhancing exhilaration. In short, methamphetamines are congruent with the demands of the fast-paced economy and the social control of the lifestyles evolving in Southeast Asia.

Every society and culture has the stimulants and intoxicants it deserves, needs and tolerates

In Jamaica, the use of cannabis dates back to the mid 19th century when it was introduced by indentured labourers from India, hence its name ganja. The two social drugs used in Jamaica are alcohol and cannabis. While alcohol is usually associated with the rich, the use of cannabis is more prevalent among the poor also because it is cheaper than alcohol. The Rastafari movement incorporates cannabis as a sacred plant in its rituals; its most famous representative, Bob Marley, made reggae music part of the world culture. About the ongoing discussions on what came first, ganja leading to the music or music leading to ganja, Lutan Fyah, a Jamaican artist explains: “If you check where this music came from and the time when it started out, you realise that it really came from the poor. They saw reggae music as a chance to say what they wanted to say and share their views and that’s how weed came up in reggae.”

An even more telling historical example relates to legal stimulants. Before they started to import tobacco, coffee, tea and chocolate through the exploitation of their growing colonial empires, European countries knew no hot drinks. Water, milk, beer and wine were their everyday drinks and people were frequently under the influence of alcohol all day long. Farmers are said to have imbibed a few litres of beer or diluted wine daily, and even the Princess of Palatine Elisabeth Charlotte from the French court complained in her letters to relatives and friends in German-speaking
mood-altering prescription drugs in western societies leads to adaptation to the functional demands of life, professional and private, and the subsequent adjustment of personalities to these demands, which seem to be the priority of the drug users.

Regarding the interdependence of drugs and culture, in all cases, drugs follow changes of the production model and the social norms in society. Economic and political changes give the impetus of subsequent changes in drug use. Thus, drugs by themselves do not stabilize or destabilize a culture or community. They do not create anything ab initio, neither on the level of the individual nor the collective. Drugs might intensify pre-existing tendencies or characteristics, but will never create or innovate by themselves. It is economic and political factors that stabilize or destabilize a society or culture, and the appropriate drugs will follow. Drugs by themselves have no independent power. Their power lies in the descriptions and ascriptions given to them.

To put it more comprehensively: “Drugs are multifunctional substances; the effects they have on human beings cannot be explained unless the way of using, the institutional settings, the legal status, the existing knowledge, the manifold desires and fears as well as the societal position of those who use them are taken into account. Substances that fall under the categories of ‘drugs’ can be used as medication for the informed treatment of physical and psychic disturbances, as part of medical experiments, as vehicles for the expansion of consciousness, as illegal addictive escapist substances, as military warfare material, as secret service ‘truth drugs’ or just simply as poison. Between use and significance there are interdependencies and it is the societal goals – political, military and cultural – that break countries that in France she missed her breakfast beer soup and had to take coffee instead. Given the gentle pace and kind of work done in feudal agricultural societies, this light drunkenness posed no problem and was shared by all social classes. Coffee first appeared in Europe in the 17th century, the century of rationalism and social and economic changes. Activities in the newly developing manufacturing work places were organised rationally, characterizing the bourgeois spirit that drove these developments. The fundamental sobering feature of coffee became part and parcel of these developments, as sobriety and abstinence (rather than mild drunkenness) became the norm and the leading value of the work ethic (Schivelbusch, p. 215ff). Thus, changes in the production model of society or the culture led to changes in the use of and preference for drugs. Initially coffee, tea, tobacco, chocolate were new drugs and, as such, were at first treated with mistrust and rejection, as it often happens in the case of new entries into an existing cultural framework with all their perceived dangers. However, over time, they became part of mainstream everyday culture. It is this mass consumption that shapes and moulds a culture. Drugs of the opiate type, as well as cocaine, remain excluded from mass consumption and are therefore not an integral part of mainstream culture. Their characteristics, use and effects are associated with minority groups, identified as outsiders, marginalised and often viewed with suspicion, depending on their class status. There is a substantial difference between the public perception and media reporting about affluent cocaine loving high flyers and opiate dependent poor youths.

These examples lead to the question of what stimulants modern western societies need today in order to function. What is the mainstream drug use that characterizes our societies: apart from alcohol, coffee, tobacco and chocolate which are deeply embedded in our culture and its rituals, what new substances have become part of mainstream culture? Above all the large number of prescription drugs that alter people’s moods, from anxiety to calmness, from sadness to ‘joy’, from rebellion to acceptance. The days when drug use was associated with innovation, the expansion of consciousness and the belief in the possibility of change, individual and collective, are over. Nowadays, the massive and mainstream use of
through this double contingency and stabilize the assessment of these substances in certain contexts.” (Tanner, p. 340. Translation DB)

### The author

**Doris Buddenberg**

Specialized in Slavonic studies, economics and ethnology at Heidelberg University, she was a visiting professor at Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, Pakistan, working in the Anthropology Department. Work on drug control started with the first Pakistan National Survey on Drug Abuse in the early 1980s. She taught at Heidelberg University and worked as a consultant for various regional and international organisations on topics including capacity building for governments, design and evaluation of drug control programmes, and the development of national drug control strategies. During this time, she worked in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Afghanistan, India, Myanmar, Laos People’s Democratic Republic and Indonesia. In 1996 she joined the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and in 2000 she lead UNODC’s country programme in Viet Nam. In 2004 she led UNODC Office in Afghanistan. She was officer-in-charge of UNICRI and in late 2007 managed the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN GIFT).

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**Wolfgang Schivelbusch. Tastes of Paradise. Pantheon 1992.**


**UNODC: Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs. Asia and the Pacific. 2012.**
Corruption undermines health care systems: a human rights issue

By Margot I. Witvliet

Human Rights and Corruption

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was established in 1948. It is one of the most impressive historical documents to date because it was agreed upon by nearly all countries around the world and it does not pertain to the norms of one nation. The UDHR states that all people have the right to security. Corruption is a destabilizing factor that violates a person’s human right to security. In both high-income and low-income parts of the world rampant corruption in society is a problem and it is a violation of human rights. It compromises not only a country’s economic system, but also its health care system. Corruption is a complex problem that is difficult to conceptualize. The World Bank has two general definitions of corruption. The first is defined as covert corruption and pertains to corruption carried out by people who provide a service...
Corruption undermines health care systems: a human rights issue

Health care professionals and their relationship with their patients thrive on trust. Living in a corrupt society or working in a corrupt health care environment may cause health care professionals to act unethically and this is a potential destabilizing factor to the health care system. In many countries task forces have been created to combat this issue, however to date corruption undermining the health care system is still a problem in most countries around the world.
Message to policy makers
Patients navigating within a health care system fraught with corruption will bear the brunt of the ill-health consequences of corruption, and it is the helpless, in particular the children, elderly and the poor who will suffer most. It is well-established that governments around the world must take measures to contain corruption, and that citizens should hold governmental systems accountable, especially if we expect to strengthen population health and the health care system. Yet governments worldwide are violating human rights by not ensuring that corruption is curtailed. This might be a driving force behind the failure to reach Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and is perhaps one of the many contributing factors to the widening of health inequalities both within and between countries. If we aim to reduce the destabilization of health care systems, greater transparency should not merely be a goal to strive for, but a fundamental component within government and to health care systems around the world.

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Sources


When citizens start destabilizing the power of mafia

By Renato Accorinti and Federico Alagna

The impact of the mafia on our societies is complex and multidimensional: it affects our politics, our economy, our culture, our development and our opportunities. In other terms, it affects our society as a whole. The reason is that the mafia is something more than mere organised crime. Sociologist Umberto Santino has identified the characteristics of the mafia *stricto sensu* as “crime, accumulation, power, cultural code, consent.” ¹ Additionally, the definition itself of the mafia-type association in the Italian criminal code stresses the condition of intimidation, subjugation and “omertà” (conspiracy of silence) that must exist in order for a mafia-type association to be considered such.²

The understanding of the mafia as a social – as opposed to only criminal – phenomenon is crucial. Especially in ter-

² Article 416-bis of the Italian Criminal Code.
territories where the mafia associations come from (the Italian regions of Sicily, Calabria and Campania first): it is here that cultural code and consent are particularly important, although recent trials have disclosed the ability of mafia organisations (and, in particular, of the Calabrese ndrangheta) to recreate such conditions also in northern Italy and abroad (for instance in Germany). Maf**ia groups are active and flourishing all over the world and represent a worldwide threat which should not be underestimated. However, it is important to understand that the cultural and social dimension is more accentuated in the territories of origin. If we want to understand how the mafia destabilises our societies, we need to explore those territories where the mafia organisations have been present for a long time. Messina, one of the six largest metropolitan districts of Southern Italy, can be, for its peculiarities, the best yardstick to understand the complex destabilising impact of mafia-type organised crime on society.

**Culture can be a good starting point, as one would be normally drawn to believe that mafia is not interested in it. It is, however, since everything can be turned into a profitable business**

Messina is a harbour city, a city of transit, separated by a 5-km strait from Reggio Calabria (the capital city of the ndrangheta). Messina’s province was referred to for years as the “provincia babba” (the dull province), where the mafia did not exist and nothing happened, because there were no murders, whilst in Palermo the two big mafia wars were happening. Meanwhile, in reality, the Sicilian mafia was building up and developing in Messina its very own network of contacts with the Masonry and the highest influential political figures, the white collars, whereas the Calabrese mafia was starting to infiltrate other business areas in town. As a result, we witnessed the mafia in Messina pervading every segment of the society.

Culture can be a good starting point, as one would be normally drawn to believe that mafia is not interested in it. It is, however, since everything can be turned into a profitable business. Numerous investigations have shown the influence of the ndrangheta on the University of Messina, from the manipulation of exams to the development of much more structured systems of interest, often related to the Faculty of Medicine.

In 1998 a well-respected professor of gastroenterology, Matteo Bottari, was murdered according to mafia style. The killers and the instigators have not been found, nor has been the reason behind the killing. In the meantime, in 2013, another professor, suspected of being involved in Bottari’s murder and then acquitted, committed suicide in mysterious circumstances.

**The pervasiveness of the mafia leads to destabilisation. No activity is left untouched. Even when it comes to social life and traditional celebrations, mafia is involved**

Beyond this extreme case, an ordi-
nary feeling of the presence of mafia groups and of its external conditioning (through corruption and intimidation) is very well known in the Academia of Messina and all over southern Italy in general. This poses a serious threat to the daily life of students and professors, as well as serious doubts regarding the possibility of being offered proper education there. The credibility of institutions and the confidence of citizens is also challenged in other ways. Nobody is surprised in Messina to hear about the links between mafia and politics.

There is a flourishing of racketeering and the state is perceived as being absent. Entrepreneurs flee, looking for more attractive places where to invest their money

Some years before the City Council of Terme Vigliatore, another neighbour small town, was resolved by the Ministry of the Interior for being subjugated by the mafia. Professor Adolfo Parmaliana was one of the people who fought the hardest to achieve this result: he committed suicide some years later, expressing in his last letter all his mistrust and disillusion to local and national institutions, that he accused of trying to punish him for the mere fact of being an honest citizen.

Tough stories like this perfectly explain how the mafia defies trust in the institutions, in a region – Sicily – where one of the former president was convicted for aiding and abetting the mafia. The pervasiveness of the mafia leads to destabilisation. No activity is left untouched. Even when it comes to social life and traditional celebrations, mafia is involved. It is the case of the patron saint’s day celebration of Messina (but the same applies to Palermo and Catania, the two other Sicilian major cities): La Vara. The German magazine Der Spiegel reported about this feast as follows: “By tradition, the men who carry the Madonna are dockworkers, ex-convicts and henchmen with the Sicilian Mafia, and these men look the part. They hope for redemption from the Virgin Mother for crimes ranging from extortion to drug dealing and murder. (...) The day of the celebration, those who are in charge here, the church and the Mafia, are always in the front rows.”

Two years ago, activists from “Addiopizzo” (an anti-mafia association), the day before the celebration distributed flyers reading «Our lady, free Messina from racketeering and mafia». They were ‘faced’ by members of the organising committee who, according to the activists and Messina’s public prosecutor investigation, threatened

Messina’s Court is seat of one of the four Anti-mafia Prosecutor’s Office in Sicily. Magistrates are busy with dozens of trials for mafia crimes, as well as for corruption and white-collars offences. The most important anti-mafia trial celebrated here was named Mare Nostrum after the Latin name of the Mediterranean Sea

them. Alleged guilty parties are still under prosecution.
And when it comes to more material issues, things are pretty much the same. Entire sectors of the economy are in the mafia’s hands, and this is particularly true when the local government is weak. As a consequence particular interest prevails on the public one. The widespread ‘logic of the favour’ threatens democracy and the possibility of citizens to claim their rights. There is a flourishing of racketeering and the state is perceived as being absent. Entrepreneurs flee, looking for more attractive places where to invest their money. Young people flee as well, with the few exceptions of those who are able to find a job (youth unemployment rate in Sicily exceeds 50%) or those who accept the ‘logic of the favour’, asking for a job to influential people.
The result of the mafia’s destabilisation is mistrust, poverty and migration. But is everything lost? Not at all. New opportunities have arisen in the last years and ‘heretical’ models have spread. Not only the “Messina model”, as Italian analysts called it, was born from the last elections in June 2013 and consisting in a movement of citizens from the anti-mafia, environment protection and pacifist sectors. They won the elections opposing the two bigger traditional parties, for years involved in a grey area of interests. A few kilometres away from Messina, Maria Teresa Collica, a jurist committed to the anti-mafia movement, became the new Mayor of the small town Barcellona P.G. The town which is defined as the “Corleone of the 3rd Millennium”. Two signs of hope, of change.

Small signs, again. But crucial to reaffirm that something can – and must – be done against the mafia and for our freedom and democracy.

But also beyond that, other small stories represent important steps in the reestablishment of democracy over the Mafioso power. In Messina, denounces of the victims of the mafia have increased in the last years, as well as the number of anti-mafia associations trying to prevent and denounce mafia’s activities – Addiopizzo and Libera among them. And from now on, the City of Messina will be civil party in all mafia trials in town.

Small signs, again, but crucial to reaffirm that something can – and must – be done against the mafia and for our freedom and democracy.

The authors

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The value of natural capital: a risk or an opportunity?

By Franca Roiatti

What is the value of a forest? And that of a river? The answer depends on whom you ask: indigenous people who depend on the forest and consider trees and water streams to be sacred surely have a totally different idea than the manager of a timber company. Nevertheless, there is a growing debate among international organizations, environmental NGOs, and the business community about the need to quantify the value of natural capital: land, air, water, living organisms and all formations in the Earth’s biosphere, as well as ecosystem services or tangible and intangible benefits we obtain from nature, such as food production, water purification, and regeneration. But would putting a price tag on natural resources really help to preserve them? Not everybody agrees.

How to stop the depletion of natural resources

We rely thoroughly on nature to sustain human life. However, the value of our biosphere is seldom taken into account in economical and political decisions. We are overexploiting our planet, depleting many crucial resources and en-
dangering our future simply because we consider nature to be an unlimited and free source. According to the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment, around 60% of the world’s ecosystems are already degraded. The conservation efforts put in place in the last decades have proved insufficient to really protect environment and biodiversity. A quarter of all plant species mentioned in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, risks to disappear, depriving us of medicines, food and raw material.

Would putting a price tag on natural resources really help to preserve them? Not everybody agrees

Jonathan Hughes, director of the World Forum on Natural Capital, which took place at the end of November 2013 in Edinburgh, compares this crisis to the financial bubble that burst in 2008: “We’re creating a natural capital debt bubble. If we continue to take resources from the planet at the rate we are taking them, then we will eventually reach a tipping point”. “If we want to stop this we need to integrate natural capital evaluation and accounting into the economic system, which drives a lot of our behavior” says Gerard Bos, director of the Global Business & Biodiversity Programme at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). “Giving a monetary value to natural capital is a way to put it on equal footing with financial and social capital. This would allow companies to insert it in balance sheets and profit and loss accounts.”

We need to calculate not only the costs of exploiting and polluting water, land or air but also the benefits tied to a responsible use of resources. For example, if in sustainable forestry only 5 per cent of the trees are cut for timber and the rest is spared for future harvest, those 95% are important as well because they provide capture carbon, water catch, soil creation, and the beauty to be in a forest - “Assets that are not properly valued at the moment and therefore not integrated in economic models” points out Bos. But how can this be done in practice?

“A lot of initiatives have been carried out for a long time by the conservation community, but we have not been able to reach the financial community yet” adds Bos.

We need to calculate not only the costs of exploiting and polluting water, land or air but also the benefits tied to a responsible use of resources

A commitment from the business community

At the Rio +20 Summit in 2012, was the financial community which decided to take action drafting the Natural Capital Declaration, a “commitment from banks, investors and insurance firms to change their business models to reflect the materiality of natural capital for the financial sector.”

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is working to help companies to measure, value, account and report on
ecosystem services. “It’s first about understanding not only impact, but also dependence, on nature. And then looking at what that means in terms of risks and opportunities” reckons Eva Zabey, Manager Ecosystems and Natural Capital at WBCSD. “We have many tools developed by and for the business community to help them on this journey, as highlighted in Eco4Biz, but there are still gaps. That is why there is an effort to develop a Natural Capital Protocol, a harmonized framework for valuing natural capital in business decision making.”

**Once you put a price tag on nature in order to protect something, you will find someone who pays that price in order to destroy it**

Some companies have already tried to calculate the environmental externalities of their activity. Puma, a sports apparel producer, was the first to publish in 2011 an Environmental profit and loss account (EP&L). The environmental impact of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, water and land use, air pollution and waste, generated by operations and supply chains of Puma sum up to 145 million euro: 51 million resulting from land use, air pollution and waste; 94 million for GHG emissions and water consumption. “It’s great progress although quite naturally it focuses mainly on the “L” – the losses – part of the EP&L which leads to the question of how to incorporate the “P” – the profits?”, comments Zabey. “I assume other companies have been exploring this internally as well but are not willing to share the results yet.”

**What are governments doing?**

The same process is happening at governmental level. In 2010, at the Convention on Biological Diversity meeting in Nagoya (Japan), the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) was launched. It is a global partnership that brings together UN agencies, governments, international organizations, NGOs, and academics to implement Natural Capital Accounting (NCA). Its main goal is to promote sustainable development by ensuring that natural resources are integrated in development planning and national economic accounts. Partners like Costa Rica are promoting laws to incorporate the value of natural capital in development planning. In the UK the government has set up a high-level Natural Capital Committee to help the government better shape decisions. These are crucial steps. If governments have a better perception of the true value of national resources they can take more responsible decisions. For instance, digging out minerals in a specific area produces wealth for the State, but is it worth the loss of the forest that has to be cleared to open the mine? The TEEB for business coalition has calculated that cattle ranching in South America has natural capital costs of 312, billion US dollars a year but provides revenues of only 16,6 billion US dollars. From this point of view South American governments should probably invest more in protecting forests, rather than destroying them to cultivate crops for cattle feeding.

**Turning nature into a commodity?**

Although Hughes calls natural capital valuation the «quiet revolution», the idea encounters a lot of skepticism too. “There are serious doubts about how feasible and objective valuation processes really are”, notes Joe Eisen from the Rainforest Foundation. “How do you assess and compare the value of a fairly widespread and commonly used or exploited species against the value of a species that is extremely rare but not used by hu-
mankind? And then again, valuable to whom? The value of any given natural asset is likely to be massively different for a world banker than for a pygmy!.”

A group of NGOs protested outside the World Forum on Natural Capital against the “great nature sale”, claiming that nature is unique and complex and that it is impossible to fully measure biodiversity. What is worrying them the most is the idea that once the natural capital has a monetary value it could also be traded, with harmful consequences. “Once you put a price tag on nature in order to protect something, you will find someone who pays that price in order to destroy it” points out Nick Dearden, director of World Development Movement, a British NGO that is strongly critical about the process of natural capital accounting.

“We do not want nature to be turned into a commodity, or let financial markets decide what is the right price of a clean river or a forest” says Antonio Tricarico of RE: Common, one of the NGOs that signed a declaration against the sale of nature. “Why are companies and some conservation organizations willing to assess natural capital? To prove that is extremely precious?” asks Tricarico. “We know that. Estimates say that ecosystem services provided annually by our biosphere add up to 33 trillion US dollars, almost half of the global GDP.”

“What the Natural Capital Declaration clearly states is that the only way to preserve nature is to make it subject to the market laws” says Tricarico. According to Re: Common and other NGOs, the financial community is only interested in new forms of investment, after speculating on land and food commodities. The so-called biodiversity offsetting schemes, that affirm that a forest or a marshland in one place can be destroyed as long as an equal value gets created elsewhere, are seen as an opportunity. “But previous attempts to create a market for nature have completely failed”, adds Tricarico. “Just look at the carbon emission market and its total inability to do what it was designed for: to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Turning environmental externalities or permits to destroy biodiversity, into an asset is not helping to preserve nature.”

What remains to be seen is whether the financial entities that bear a lot of responsibility for the 2008 financial crisis could really help finding a solution to the ongoing deep ecological crisis

Biodiversity offsetting is for Gerard Bos only a tool: “It is the last choice for companies. First they have to avoid and mitigate negative impacts: that is why we need to integrate natural capital in the economic decisions. The process might not be 100% right, but it is a step towards more transparency and hopefully equity and justice.” What remains to be seen is whether the financial entities that bear a lot of responsibility for the 2008 financial crisis could really help finding a solution to the ongoing deep ecological crisis.

The author

Franca Roiatti

Franca Roiatti works as a journalist for Panorama, an Italian weekly news magazine, writing mainly articles on international affairs. She is the author of two books: *The New Colonialism: The Quest for Arable Land, about the land grabbing phenomenon and The Lettuce Revolution: Can the Food System Be Changed?* (both in Italian), about alternatives ways to produce and purchase food. She has lectured on subjects of food policies and has participated in several conferences, workshops, and expert panels on landgrabbing, food security, and sustainable food production.
Illicit trafficking of precious metals and its destabilizing factors in systems of affected countries

By Peter H. Bishop

Illicit trafficking in precious metals\(^1\) is an integral part of a growing international trend, of which the continued existence depends on organised crime, corruption and developmental inequalities. The problem of illicit trafficking in precious metals entails organised criminal groups exploiting loopholes in national and international legislation as

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\(^1\)Platinum, palladium, gold, silver, rhodium, iridium, osmium and ruthenium
Illicit trafficking in precious metals is an integral part of a growing international trend, of which the continued existence depends on organised crime, corruption and developmental inequalities.

Not every country has the ability to produce and refine the metals to purity, and has to rely on other countries for such purposes. The metals are in most instances transported in an unrefined or semi-refined form across the globe to international refiners. Due to the unrefined and semi-refined form of the metal, it makes it easy for organised criminal groups to move the commodity effortlessly across regional and international borders to international markets without being detected. They don’t hesitate to defraud customs organisations by under declaring the true value and disguising the nature of the metal to circumvent regulatory frameworks designed to prevent fraud. This in the end allows for high yields, with the proceeds eventually finding their way into foreign bank accounts belonging to syndicate bosses.

This crime phenomenon constitutes a multi-billion dollar industry presenting a number of challenges and threats to producing countries’ national security, government authority and socio-economic development, which manifest increased vulnerability to international organised crime and possible terrorist networks; the compromising of security organs, pervasive corruption within the state and society; the facilitation of an influx of illegal migrants and subsequent human trafficking as well as the illegal trade in arms and explosives. The total economic impact of losses suffered by affected countries producing precious metal unfortunately is not accurately quantifiable. Even relatively well researched statistics do not take into account the secondary effects of such losses. Economic growth and development is adversely affected through the fleecing of national assets and resources, leading to large losses in government revenue, declines in business revenue, threatening the viability and long-term sustainability of mines and their secondary industries, as well as the development of local communities. The growth in unemployment amongst miners and security costs to combat the phenomenon add further burdens on the public funds and threatens the viability of the global industry.
This crime phenomenon constitutes a multi-billion dollar industry presenting a number of challenges and threats to producing countries’ national security, government authority and socio-economic development.

The illicit trafficking in precious metals consists of at least five identifiable, complex and interlinked levels of organised criminal activity ranging from individual criminal miners; gangs and illegal mining bosses; bulk buyers at national/regional level in the form of licensed or registered entities; front company exporters and international intermediary companies and buyers. It stands to reason that to effectively deal with the demand and supply chain, the national, regional and international illicit buyer market has to be dealt a severe blow. The success of these illegal activities depends on highly sophisticated export routes, the extensive use of international banking facilities, and the participation of governments and global companies, either willingly or unwillingly. A number of platinum group metal and gold refineries situated in non-mining countries create a parallel market for illicit operations as a result of the complex methodologies employed by organised crime syndicates to conceal the country of origin. If these illicit operations are left unchecked, major mining countries will now recognise the severity of the threat and issue a call to action by international bodies, law enforcement agencies and industries to help combat this emerging crime.

The international community must now recognise the severity of the threat and issue a call to action by international bodies, law enforcement agencies and industries to help combat this emerging crime.

The author

Peter H Bishop
has served in a law enforcement capacity in South Africa for 32 years up to Executive Management level. He has presented on a number of international symposiums and served as a member of expert working groups for international bodies such as ISPAC, UNODC and UNICRI, on topics related to transnational organised crime, illicit trafficking in precious metals and corruption.

2Human trafficking, human smuggling, slavery, child labour, drug trafficking, gun running, organised corruption, money laundering, gang activity etc.
European Union (EU) Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative

The EU Centres of Excellence on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation (CBRN CoE Initiative), launched in 2010, is an initiative of the European Union (EU).

The Initiative is implemented jointly by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and is under the aegis of European Commission's Directorate General for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid (DG DEVCO) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The EU CBRN CoE is developed by the European Union through the EU Instrument for Stability with a budget of 95 million Euros for 2009 – 2013.

The CBRN CoE network is currently present in more than 40 partner countries across the globe, grouped around 8 CBRN CoE Regional Secretariats, namely:

- African Atlantic Façade
- Central Asia
- Eastern and Central Africa
- Gulf Cooperation Council Countries
- Middle East
- North Africa
- South East Asia
- South East Europe, Southern Caucasus,
- Moldova and Ukraine

Benefits for Countries

- Reinforcement of National CBRN policies
- Maximisation of existing capacities in the region
- Enhancement of coordination and integration through the establishment of National Teams
- Membership of an international network of CBRN experts
- Needs addressed through specific projects or resources

Objectives

Lack of coordination and preparedness related to CBRN risks at national level and fragmentation of responsibilities within a region can have dramatic consequences. The Initiative addresses the mitigation of and preparedness against risks related to CBRN material and agents. The origin of these risks can be criminal, accidental or natural.

- Develop methodology and guidelines
- Create an international network of CBRN expertise
- Facilitate the cooperation process between network members
- Establish Regional Secretariats to foster regional cooperation
- Support partner countries in creating their CBRN National Teams

These activities will support partner countries in the implementation of the CoE methodology to:

- Perform a needs assessment at national level
- Develop a comprehensive CBRN National Action Plan
- Draft specific tailored project proposals
- Analyse project proposals at regional level
- Identify and implement targeted projects of regional concern to address needs (e.g., training, procedures, workshops, equipment)
- Promote the use of CBRN national, regional and international capabilities for the implementation of projects
Environmental crime and instability: the role of criminal networks in the trafficking and illegal dumping of hazardous waste

By Valentina Baiamonte and Elise Vermeersch

Amongst environmental crimes, trafficking and illegal dumping of waste has become a significant source of revenue, attracting growing interest of unscrupulous brokers as well as criminal networks. This crime poses not only a serious

Despite the formal ban of all exports, illegal trade and dumping of hazardous waste has become and remains a global threat affecting major producing and importing countries. As demonstrated by different Interpol operations⁷, through worldwide routes going from Europe, North America and Japan to South-East Asia and Africa, brokers and traffickers have deployed well-organized networks able to illegally dispose or dump hazardous waste. Regional flows are also well-established. The destination of hazardous waste is not a mere coincidence. While China or India accept huge amounts of waste in order to recycle and recover raw materials, African countries are looking for second-hand material usable eventually after repair.

Assessing the link between illegal trade of e-waste and criminal activ-
ties is a difficult endeavor in consideration of the undetermined extension of grey areas in the waste business. In this regard, UNICRI is taking part in the “Countering WEEE Illegal Trade project (CWIT)” led by Interpol. This two-year research project aims to analyze the illegal flows of waste, highlighting connections with other criminal activities, and identifying the criminal networks involved.

Link between environmental crime and instability

As recently highlighted by UNEP and Interpol, "environmental crime affects all sectors of society and is often linked with the exploitation of disadvantaged communities, human rights abuses, violence, conflict, money laundering, corruption and international criminal syndicates".8

While China or India accept huge amounts of waste in order to recycle and recover raw materials, African countries are looking for second-hand material usable eventually after repair

Illicit waste trafficking is a serious threat for destination countries where untreated hazardous waste is dumped into the ground or waters, or manually disassembled with little or no regard being paid to health and safety issues for the population, and to the enduring damages caused to the environment. Illegal waste management represents however, also an increasing threat for producing countries, as a consequence of fraud, and tax evasion, but also “pollution” of the legal economy by criminal actors through money laundering and control of legitimate companies active in the waste management sector.

Waste trafficking is a crime facilitated by the corruption of public officials in charge of permits, law enforcement and customs as well as politicians, who can ease the solving of bureaucratic issues related to the achievement of permits and document falsification9. In order to have a better understanding of this risk, UNICRI is carrying out a research on the interactions between environmental crimes and corruption. The study will identify risk and vulnerability factors for the development of more effective strategies in tackling environmental crime and curbing corruption.

Corruption is a key factor in those countries where instability is at its most as a consequence of economic crisis, civil war, or poverty. A remarkable example of how illicit waste trafficking is prompted by instability is the case of Somalia. The civilian conflict that affected Somalia for more than 20 years, the absence of the rule of law and respect for human rights encouraged Italian mafia groups and corrupted public officials to enter this area. In 2006, the Italian Parliamentary Commission investigated on the possible link between waste and arms trafficking; in this regard, evidence was found that conventional weapons were given to armed groups involved in the civil conflict in return for sites where hazardous waste of all kind was buried, dispersed or even burnt. Still today, Somali people are suffering from the consequences of this illicit waste trafficking from toxic and radioactive waste: deformations to the urinary system, cancer and childhood leukemia.

Europol noted an increase in the volume of illegal trade between the European Union and the most affected destination countries in Africa and Asia, where in most cases recycling infrastructure for hazardous waste is weak with dramatic consequences for human health and the environment. A report by the ILO provides a clear description of the bad working conditions of workers in the waste sector in these countries, highlighting the link with numerous serious diseases.

**Waste trafficking is a crime facilitated by the corruption of public officials in charge of permits, law enforcement and customs as well as politicians**

In China for example, workers suffer of skin lesions, malfunctioning of respiratory system, cancer or tuberculosis. Informal e-waste recycling can be catastrophic for health and the environment. As reported by the United Nations University, in Ghana, teenagers and sometimes even children manually dismantle equipment imported from Europe and North America and set the wires on fire to extract copper wires. What is left of the material is then buried, burned or sold to brokers. The recent protest that occurred in the area of Naples is an evidence of the social repercussions caused by illicit waste traffic of chemicals, toxic and radioactive waste dumped in the Southern Italian region of Campania that lasted over 20 years. During an Italian Parliamentary Commission investigation in 1997, the state’s witness Carmine Schiavone, formerly affiliated to the Camorra, claimed that different types of waste had been illegally dumped in region: toxic residuals produced by companies in Central and Northern Italy, and even radioactive sludge from other countries. Italian criminal groups involved in the business, the Camorra in particular, opted for dumping the waste locally in order to minimize transportation costs.

It is also to be noted that in times of economic and financial crisis, licit companies might be tempted to turn into brokers or facilitators offering much cheaper services, without inquiring whether they act in compliance with the law and the proscribed safety

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19Interview by Paul Moreira to Pietro Sebri, one of the most important brokers charged with the enhancement of new routes and destinations of hazardous waste illegally trafficked. Moreira P. (2010). “Toxic Somalia: L’autre Piraterie”, documentary for Arte France. Video available online at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3sjVkyI2Wc
23Ibidem. See supra.
Environmental crime and instability: the role of criminal networks in the trafficking and illegal dumping of hazardous waste

standards. On the other hand, Italian Ecomafia\textsuperscript{18} appear to have infiltrated the legal economy through extortion, violence and direct acquisition and control of companies active in this sector. Construction, transportation, or land disposal firms are used to illegally manage the waste and facilitate the trafficking from the production sites to the final dumping. A recent example comes from a criminal investigation carried out in the New York Metropolitan Area, as a result of which twelve members of three crime families have been charged with “conspiring to participate in a racketeering enterprise that asserted illegal and extortionate control over commercial waste hauling companies.” Hidden behind seemingly legitimate enterprises, the accused were engaged in crimes including extortion, loan sharking, mail and wire fraud, and stolen property offenses.\textsuperscript{19}

The presence of these kinds of actors prompts the distortion of market and of the rules of fair competition. Firms offering a safe and sound disposal of the waste will be forced to leave the market or lowering the price and the quality of their services in order to compete with brokers and criminals.

In conclusion, waste trafficking and illicit waste management increasingly pose a threat for the socio-economic stability. In this regard, it is essential to raise awareness of the international community, enforcement agencies, environmental organizations and civil society, on the quantity of hazardous waste generated, the dangers posed to health and environment, but also on the negative impact on the legal economy and the serious crimes involved.

With these objectives, UNICRI in collaboration with UNEP has organized a high-level International Conference on current and emerging threats posed by environmental crime which produced a Plan of Action with recommendations on the way forward\textsuperscript{20}. As requested by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its Resolution 2012/19, UNICRI in close partnership with experts and institutions at the international level\textsuperscript{21} will continue conducting research on different forms of transnational organized crime, including those having an impact on the environment.

\textsuperscript{18}The term “Ecomafia” was first introduced in Italy in 1994 by the NGO Legambiente, with the report The Ecomafia Report and its effects. Nowadays this term has entered in the common language to indicate sector of the Mafias involved in illicit activities posing serious risk for the environment.


\textsuperscript{20}More information on: http://www.unicri.it/topics/environmental/conference/


The author

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Elise Vermeersch

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The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) is organizing a series of workshops and short courses within the framework of the UNICRI Journalism and Public Information Programme, a unique international programme tailored for journalists, chief information officers and students who want to specialize in public information and journalism. The programme aims at deepening knowledge of emerging security threats. Over the course of the workshops participants will become skilled in handling information related to new hazards to states and citizens. They will acquire key tools to report facts and expand their professional network by meeting key international actors in this area.

The programme is intended for journalists, chief information officers, public information professionals, corporate communication managers and students who want to specialize in public information and journalism.

The first three courses will take place at the United Nations Campus in Turin, Italy:

- Cyber Threats Workshop
- Reporting and Communicating on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risks
- Biosecurity Masterclass

For more information please visit: unicri.it/communicating_on_new_threats

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Contemporary racism across Europe

By Veronika Bajt

Developments in a number of countries worldwide show that the power of racist ideas remains strong, even forging movements and political parties that can result in deadly consequences. Various daily manifestations of racist hate speech and discrimination are a reminder of the persisting importance of this phenomenon as a social and political issue in the contemporary global environment, for racism remains a vibrant influence on current social and political movements, even on state policies. As one such timely example, the virulently anti-Semitic and racist Greek political party Golden Dawn combines both legal (running for elections) and illegal action (violently assaulting migrants) with a heavy nostalgia for the Third Reich. In Hungary, the Hungarian Guard, which is a paramilitary militia of the Jobbik party, terrorises the Roma people, even murdering some, forcing them to flee the country. A myriad of other examples could further be listed, which is why it is essential to develop a common culture of stigmatization of racism and promote a proactive role of community actors who can not only recognise and report these phenomena but also actively contrast racism, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance throughout Europe.

The LIGHT ON project addresses the dangerous underestimation of the progressive normalization of racist images.
Contemporary racism does not create differences based on biological aspects, but on the basis of alleged ‘insurmountable’ cultural differences

In all the five countries included in the LIGHT ON project (Finland, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia and the United Kingdom), the exclusionary racist logic perceives the supposed cultural characteristics of minority and immigrant communities as a ‘problem’ or ‘threat’ that represents something fundamentally different from the

Moreover, rather than revealing the social disvalue of racism, normalization is in direct relation to the frequently applied practice by the perpetrators of playing the part of the victims

Even though explicit and blatant forms of racial hatred and discrimination, such as physical violence still endure, a wider definition of racism enables us to understand and reveal more covert or subtle kinds of the phenomenon. These ‘newer’ forms of racism are so embedded in social processes and structures that they are even more difficult to explore and challenge. Neo-racism is a much more subtle form of racism, one which induces people to claim that they are not racist, and has been especially recognised in contemporary anti-immigrant attitudes, laws and policies. The concept of ‘race’ (associated with biology and ‘nature’) is in this way replaced by the concept of culture. Contemporary racism does not create differences based on biological aspects, but on the basis of alleged ‘insurmountable’ cultural differences, assuming the ‘danger of mixing’ and the ‘danger of elimination of boundaries’ between supposedly different cultures or civilizations, the incompatibility of lifestyles and traditions – building distinction, exclusion and intolerance based on difference.
majority population. Finland, Italy and UK are countries with large immigration especially from Arab countries of Africa, Middle East and Asia.

These ‘newer’ forms of racism are so embedded in social processes and structures that they are even more difficult to explore and challenge. Neo-racism is a much more subtle form of racism

In Finland, street violence towards migrants from Somalia is higher than anywhere else in Europe. In all the three countries, the Muslim communities are the most vulnerable victims of racist prejudice and discrimination. Even though Hungary and Slovenia are currently not dealing with mass immigration, migrants have still been frequently used as a scapegoat and discriminated against. Moreover, across Europe the Roma people are by far the most frequent victims of racist discrimination, but also other communities, like the “southerners” of the former Yugoslav republics and Muslims in Slovenia, or Jews in Hungary. Ascribed religious and ethnic characteristics seem to additionally reinforce the inequality and discrimination of these communities in an intersectional manner.

The economic crisis has in recent years fuelled the rise of various populist and radical right-wing groups e.g. the English Defense League and anti-EU and anti-immigration party Ukip (UK Independence Party), Forza nuova (New Force) and the anti-immigration party Lega Nord (North League) in Italy, the True Finns party in Finland, the Jobbik party in Hungary.

The exclusionary racist logic perceives the supposed cultural characteristics of minority and immigrant communities as a ‘problem’ or ‘threat’ that represents something fundamentally different from the majority population

Skewed media representations also fuel discriminatory attitudes towards minority groups, migrants and asylum seekers. Hate speech is far from limited to media and extremist groups, but features as part and parcel of political discourse. The link between racism and nationalism is obvious across Europe, where exclusionary ‘national interests’ are put to the fore, claims of ‘patriotic’ endeavours for the ‘homeland’ are made, and populist hate speech intersects with sexist, homophobic, racist and generally intolerant discourse. In addition to localised vilified scapegoats that are picked at in specific national contexts, across Europe racism remains primarily focused on migrants, Roma, Muslims, and Jews, who are constructed, discriminated against and persecuted as the undesired ‘outsiders’.

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The project and the author

LIGHT ON
LIGHT ON project (January 2013 - December 2014) refuses racism and its related images and habits as a normal expression of public life and investigates how they harm the society. LIGHT ON calls for everyone to put racism in the spotlight and combat it, and the project also promotes positive role models through tools such as a wiki, a social network based reporting system and a video documentary, which is set to inspire European communities to respond to these signs. The partnership of the project wants to activate a European community against racist and discriminatory symbols, which also has the benefit of the support of a group of European Advisors (with representatives from the 5 EU macro areas), who evaluate the replicable features of the tools, their impact, and their correspondence with European needs. LIGHT ON is co-funded by the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Program of the European Commission. (http://www.unicri.it/special_topics/hate_crimes/)

Veronika Bajt
Veronika Bajt (PhD in Sociology, University of Bristol, UK) has been a researcher at the Peace Institute since 2006, where she works on international projects on migration, nationalism, racism, citizenship, media and policy analysis. The Peace Institute – Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies (Ljubljana, Slovenia) – is a non-profit research institution developing interdisciplinary research activities in various fields of social and human sciences (i.e. sociology, anthropology, political science, philosophy, economies and law). The goal of the Institute is not only to adopt a critical stance towards events in the society but also to actively intervene in these events, to link academic research and reflection with practical educational and strategic advisory activities in various fields of public policy and public action in general. The Peace Institute is one of the partners at the LIGHT ON project. (http://www.mirovni-institut.si/Main/About/en/http://www.mirovni-institut.si/Main/About/en/)
Welcome

The CSCM – World Congress on CBRNe Science & Consequence Management, in coordination with, and under the auspices of the Government of Georgia, is very pleased to announce the 21st meeting in the CBMITS series. This meeting provides a specific focus on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) counterproliferation and counterterrorism issues with the goal of promoting a better understanding and acting to minimize the CBRNe threats.

The Congress will explore the scientific, technical, medical and policies implications and consequence management aspects, as well as the effects of CBRNe threats on communities and the individuals in addition to each layer of infrastructure and government echelon. We will build on the base of knowledge established throughout the first six World Congresses on the CBRNe threat beginning with the prophetic first meeting in April 2001. In that meeting we were provided information from professionals charged with the task of responding immediately to crisis.

The upcoming meeting will continue our traditional approach of hosting a pre-Congress Workshop, this year focus will be on Biosafety and Biosecurity in an infectious disease surveillance network. The meeting will take place from 29 – 31 May 2014 and will be open to all Congress participants.

The Congress and workshop are expected to involve around 300 participants from 50 countries. The International Organizing Committee, based for this event in Tbilisi, Georgia, will be comprised of representatives of Georgian ministries and international scientific and academic institutions from other nations.

Who Should Attend?

- Government, industry, military, and academic professionals in the field of science, medicine, policy and planning
- Medical, public health and research professionals, including primary care physicians, veterinarians, and practitioners
- Local, regional and national laboratory representatives
- First responders and hazardous material (HAZMAT) specialists including emergency, crisis management, and civil defense personnel
- Specialists in risk management, planning, training and local community interface and crisis communications, and
- Industry leaders to include scientists and engineers
Seminar on International Criminal Law Defence

in cooperation with
the Office of Public Counsel for the Defence of the International Criminal Court
and

Sponsored by

5-8 May 2014
Deadline for applications: 6 April 2014
Explaining violence and social disorganization in Ciudad Juarez

Destabilizing factors in urban settings

By Robert Muggah and Carlos Vilalta

The most visible manifestations of urban violence encompass physical and psychological harm against persons – from homicide to other forms of victimization. For more than a century social scientists have also studied the ways in which violence reconfigures social and spatial relations and triggers cycles of insecurity and fear that span generations. There is also evidence that “structural” forms of urban violence arising from the degradation of urban economies and austerity measures can equally contribute to a “break down” in social life leading to new forms of violence. An especially disconcerting manifestation of urban violence is found in Mexico.

In just a few years, Mexico’s war on drugs has claimed between 30,000 and 60,000 lives with most of these intentional
deaths concentrated in the northern states. The country’s national homicide rate rapidly increased over the past few years from 8.1 homicides per 100,000 in 2007 to 23.7 homicides per 100,000 in 2011. The homicide rate supposedly declined, albeit marginally, to 22 per 100,000 in 2012. The overall escalation in violence was linked to deployment of more than 60,000 soldiers by former President Calderon and subsequent inter-cartel violence. What is especially unsettling is the appalling brutality, the symbolic and ritualized nature of violence, often intended to send messages to secure territory and expand influence.

In just a few years, Mexico’s war on drugs has claimed between 30,000 and 60,000 lives

In order to fully apprehend the full extent of México’s urban violence crisis it is necessary to consider its geographic dimensions. The consideration of the geography of criminality is not without precedent. Indeed, human geographers and sociologists have studied spatial aspects of criminal behavior and criminality for more than a century. A particular focus of these scholars is on the ways in which the built-up city – and in particular its rapid growth – influences individual social bonds within communities. Many of them argued that increased proximity engendered networks that were temporary, transitory and instrumental and in some instances, contributed to a rise in neighborhood crime and criminal violence. These insights soon gave rise to the so-called theory of social disorganization.

Contemporary formulations of the theory suggest that it is not principally the ethnic or “identity” composition of specific settings that are the principal drivers of neighborhood crime, but rather the real and relative absence of social support networks, social capital, and the inability of communities to sustain collective action. Yet a number of key insights of scholars associated with the so-called French and Chicago schools remain constant today in Mexico. Specifically, drug-related and property crimes are highly spatially concentrated, as is the tendency of criminals to live close to areas where they operate. It is for this reason that certain city areas can be classified as “crime endemic”.

What is especially unsettling is the appalling brutality, the symbolic and ritualized nature of violence, often intended to send messages to secure territory and expand influence

There is an array of competing explanations for what contributes to the causes of social disorganization and the spatial concentration of violent crime in so-called “hot spots”. Certain scholars contend, for example, that there are typically areas within cities that offer more intrinsic opportunities for criminal activity owing to political
neglect and the absence of state presence together with local economic decay. Other geographical findings of social disorganization link higher crime rates with areas exhibiting a higher density of offenders, a higher percentage of rental housing, and large social housing projects. Likewise, the probability of becoming a criminal is also increased if the individual is raised in a highly criminal area. The causal mechanism here is that a higher density of criminals increases the chances of meeting accomplices due to wider network and closer communication between them.

Social disorganization in Ciudad Juárez

Although contemporarily known for spectacular levels of organized violence, Ciudad Juárez is also historically recognized as a key economic engine of Mexico. With a total estimated population of 1.3 million, it holds a disproportionately important manufacturing base. Due to its strategic location at the border with the United States, Ciudad Juárez is one of the most economically important cities in the country. Much like other Mexican cities on the United States border, Ciudad Juárez also exhibits mixed “social dichotomy” characteristics. Indeed, since its founding, the city has experienced complex and often black-market forms of trans-border trade and socio-economic characteristics. During the prohibition era of the 1930s, for example, bars and clubs multiplied in the downtown area just across the border bridge of Juarez-El Paso.

Ciudad Juárez has also served as a “gateway” city. Literally millions of migrants have passed through the city or stayed on as short- and long-term residents. For example, between 1942 and 1965 under the Bracero program hundreds of thousands of farm workers migrated to the United States crossing through the city. Following its closure, the city had expanded to almost 400,000 inhabitants. Urban planning was subsequently redirected toward industrialization for the United States consumer market including the hiring of unskilled labor, particularly women in the so-called maquiladoras. Unlike the Bracero program, the maquiladoras initiative continued to attract young workers – particularly women. It also had a socially structuring effect, including the rapid growth of slums, sustained male unemployment, low-paid working mothers and children reared in single parent households.

The (unintended) effects of these two programs contributed to a gradual process of social disorganization in Ciudad Juárez. The resultant chronic income vulnerability, successive economic recessions and weak family structures were fundamental in laying the foundations for the onset of violence. The rapid spike in inter-cartel related violence since 2006 served as the trigger. In spite of recent declines, Ciudad Juárez is today one of the most violent cities on the planet. Between December of 2006 and December 2010, some 6,437 homicides were linked to the so-called organized crime war. Yet between 1994 and 2010, just 1,792 individuals were sentenced for committing homicide.

Homicidal violence is not only highly spatially clustered but it is also correlated with a number of compositional variables or social factors

In a recent empirical study, we corre-
lated homicide rates in districts falling above and below the arithmetic mean with socioeconomic variables associated with social disorganization in the city. Specifically, the assessment used regression analysis to appraise the relationship between more than 200 independent variables and homicidal violence. We found that there are at least 12 statistically significant underlying demographic and socioeconomic factors that correlate with the above-average incidence of criminal violence in Ciudad Juárez.

Many of these “risks” are reported in other settings and include low levels of employment, low access to social security, vacant and inadequate housing, and low levels of education and migration. In other words, there are signs that areas characterized by urban poverty and marked deterioration are also susceptible to disproportionately high risks of homicidal violence. Others are more “protective” and are linked to higher rates of education, social cohesion and formal education or schooling. We then graphically visualized these risk and protective factors in a venn diagram to highlight the extent of their statistical influence.

The assessment detected 6 specific factors that appear to be robustly associated with higher levels of homicidal violence (see Figure 1). These demographic and socioeconomic factors include population born in another state, population above 15 with more than 9 years of schooling, average schooling among male population, population registered to social security services, vacant housing, and occupied home units with no access to water inside its premises. A number of these variables are intuitive and are associated with the apparently directed forms of armed violence along Mexico’s border with the United States. Yet as we shall see below, others are more counter-intuitive. More important for the purposes of this article, many are predicted by the social disorganization theory.

Figure 1. Risk factors shaping homicidal violence in Juárez
As noted above, there are at least 6 socioeconomic factors that negatively correlate with criminal violence in Ciudad Juarez (see Figure 2). These “protective factors” include female population between 6 and 11 years old that do not go to school, populations exhibiting employment, populations registered to the social program Seguro Popular, populations over 12 that are married, the prevalence of temporary housing, and occupied home units with no cemented floors. Put another way, reported homicide was lower, on average, in police districts exhibiting higher incidence of these factors.

Figure 2. Protective factors against homicidal violence in Juarez

In order to develop a sophisticated set of responses to preventing and reducing criminal violence in settings such as Ciudad Juarez it is essential to better understand its underlying causes. Policy makers and their electorates are easily susceptible to narrowly conceived and heavy-handed responses. When reliable and valid information is often missing, it is natural that responses often treat perpetrators and victims in dichotomous boxes. Yet a closer reading of the underlying social conditions of specific urban settings and the spatial dynamics of homicidal violence reveal a more expansive range of alternative entry-points.
A future without fear?

In parts of Mexico and also likely in other similar settings, homicidal violence is not only highly spatially clustered but it is also correlated with a number of compositional variables or social factors. Specifically, we detected a set of underlying risk factors and protective factors operating in Ciudad Juarez between 2009 and 2010. What is more, we found that social disorganization correlates with violence and this premise was partially confirmed, albeit in some cases with some unexpected relationships emerging. Nevertheless, there are some grounds for cautious optimism in Ciudad Juarez.

In the wake of massive programs such as Todos Somos Juarez (TSJ) launched in 2010, rates of violence have dropped dramatically. With hundreds of millions spent, TSJ constitutes one of the single largest federal crime prevention initiatives in Mexican history, so questions about its replicability remain. There are also concerns about the extent to which these funds are appropriately targeting risk and protective factors. There is comparatively limited public information about how much, when, and where specific investments are being made. The absence of such data is in large part due to the lack of citizen involvement in public policy making. Without genuine citizen participation and a concerted focus on identified risk and protective factors, it may be difficult to sustain the impressive gains already achieved.
Destabilizing the future: the Lebanese Diaspora

A country with no youth is a country with no future

By Erik Chiniara

It is hard to delimit the percentage of Lebanese emigration every year. We do not know exactly how many people leave Lebanon. The political sensitivities of the country preclude efforts to collect reliable data on the number of emigrants. No official census has been taken since 1932 for fear of upsetting the fragile agreement governing the division of power between the various rival Lebanese confessions. This subject is taboo. In fact, the real concern is that the new confessional and religious composition of the population would be revealed.

It is without doubt that successive governments have been ignoring the need to create an organized database, so that we would know who is entering and mostly leaving the country.

However, some research has been conducted and estimates have been provided by several non-governmental organizations.
Lebanon’s youth are very pessimistic about the future of their country, and they have the right to be.

A country falling apart and a generation fleeing

For the past two decades, economic instability and growing insecurity have been pushing young very well trained and educated Lebanese to emigrate. The main case is insecurity and political instability. Lebanon has been suffering from a new campaign of bombings and political assassinations, since the murder of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in February 2005.

Lebanon’s youth are very pessimistic about the future of their country, and they have the right to be.

Even the most rewarding jobs like journalism seem to raise some issues. Although working for a local newspaper seems to be a stable job, many journalism graduates try to emigrate to Europe and America where reporters are appreciated, respected and decently paid. There, at least, they will not need to worry about losing their lives in a car explosion or having their children kidnapped.

The country is hence, suffering from a very serious brain drain. The “brains” of Lebanon are fleeing and this is threatening the economic and social future of the country. These are young people who could invest their knowledge and energy in Lebanon and eventually foster a strong working middle-class of entrepreneurs.

The young generation being the next generation, “a country with no youth is a country with no future”; and by leaving Lebanon, the young generation is abandoning the country to the
warlords who have contributed over the years to its systematic socio-political and economic meltdown. In the long term, their absence could result in a severe shortage of policy makers and managers.

**Lebanon is faced with many issues: massive emigration from its youth, insecurity and economic meltdown**

*Living at the expense of our brethren living overseas*

In Lebanon, the minimum wage set by the state is less than $300 per month and has not increased since 1996. According to a World Bank report dating May 2007, nearly 26% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country, which amounts to about $5.6 billions is generated by migrants. The report also shows that 45% of these transactions were carried out by the 400,000 Lebanese residing in the Gulf countries, especially those who live in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

The high level of brain drain is the result of “inept” policies implemented by successive governments, which have failed to generate economic growth at a time when the debt was soaring.

At present, in addition to growing insecurity, extreme indebtedness of the country is also an obstacle to economic growth. According to the highest estimates, Lebanon’s public debt in 2006 stood just over $40 billion, equivalent to 209% of the GDP, one of the highest debt ratios in the world.

Lebanon has three sources of revenue. The first is its natural resources, the second is finance and the third – the most important – is based on our human resources. When our human resources disappear, we will not be able to handle the first two. However, even if effective economic reforms and better pay progressively appear, I fear this will not be enough to convince everyone to stay. Deeper socio-political reforms in terms of secularisation are necessary.

Lebanon is faced with many issues: massive emigration from its youth, insecurity and economic meltdown. The entire system must be re-modelled. If Lebanon is suffering it is not because, the Lebanese are lazy and incapable, but simply because they are not given a chance to prove themselves.

Why is that? Lebanon, despite its very modern institutions, is still inherently based on feudalism. Mentalities have not evolved, and people still count on their “tribal chief” for survival.

“They are the victorious wherever they go and loved and respected wherever they settle” (Gebran Khalil)

When Lebanese find the opportunity to leave their country and finally find the “free world” they shine! In the words of the Lebanese poet, Gebran Khalil Gebran: “They will succeed wherever they are.”

We may take Canada as an example—one of the most welcoming countries for Lebanese refugees and migrants. And without a doubt, throughout the history of Canada, the Lebanese immigration has played a significant role in the economic and social dynamics of the host country. The first (1859-1917) and second (1938-1960) waves of immigration consisted primarily of Lebanese working in trade, including textiles. But it is mainly from 1968 to 1992 that the Lebanese massively started to immigrate to Canada. This last wave was formed initially by young desperate Lebanese students who studied in Canada and remained in the country because of the uncertainty of Lebanon’s future during and following the 1975 civil war.

Given the economic constraints that hit Lebanon in the aftermath of the
war, the biggest wave of Lebanese immigration to Quebec took place between 1989 and 1992. It is estimated that some 120,000 Lebanese immigrants fled to Canada in less than 5 years. Moreover, in recent years, more and more Lebanese students enrol in Canadian universities applying for permanent residence in Canada, and dreaming of a better future.

Today, there are approximately 400,000 Lebanese in Canada, active in all sectors of the economy. In addition to their professional success, the Lebanese in Canada have developed a sense of belonging vis-à-vis the host country. The importance of the Lebanese diaspora in Canada has greatly contributed to the diplomatic relations between the two countries. Bilateral high-level visits have succeeded, as evidenced by the presence of former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in Beirut in October 2002, during the Summit of the Francophonie. In addition, cultural and academic exchanges between Lebanon and Canada, including Quebec, continue to grow.

While the Lebanese diaspora in Canada is well integrated, it does not forget its roots. Private initiatives arising from this community are responsible for multiple investments in Lebanon. Culturally, there are also many Lebanese associations in Canada. Some take a humanitarian character such as Lebanus, whose objective is to raise funds to promote the education of disadvantaged youth in Lebanon. Most of these associations allow the diaspora to promote Lebanese culture in their host countries and to support each other in their integration in Canada. They also aim to discuss cultural and political issues related to their host country or try to overcome community divisions found in Lebanon. The new generation of Lebanese in Canada is very active in this area, a piece of evidenced being the Lebanese Student Federation in Montreal (Tollab). In the same vein, several churches and mosques frequented by the Lebanese community were founded in Canada in order to reunite the Lebanese spiritually, socially and culturally.

Lebanon has come a long way. From hundreds of years of occupation, this country is trying to stand on its own two feet once again.

The Lebanese diaspora has proven to be very successful, not only in Canada, but all around América, Europe, and elsewhere in the world. Their success is the result of a certain level of education and upbringing but mostly a consequence of Lebanon’s inherent struggle for freedom. Every Lebanese has inherent in him/her this determination for success and victory. This struggle for freedom inherited from their ancestors may be perceived in the way the Lebanese diaspora glows across the globe.

Lebanon has come a long way. From hundreds of years of occupation, this country is trying to stand on its own two feet once again. Lebanon counts a lot on its diaspora for support; however, aid from abroad is not enough. Change, progress, evolution and prosperity have to come from within.

The author

Erik Chiniara

Erik Chiniara is a student at the Institute of Political Affairs in Paris, he is in the editorial team of L’Echo du Cèdre, a monthly electronic newspaper, featuring economic, social, cultural, and political information from Lebanon. Funded by two Lebanese students who had moved to Paris to pursue their studies, L’Echo du Cèdre targets those students living overseas who are proud of their ancestry and who are willing to contribute time and effort in building a new and modern state. Its main objective is to bring together the NextGen Lebanese diaspora and provide them with an interactive platform where they can share their vision and exchange their views freely.
Fabio Cuttica

Fabio Cuttica is a documentary photographer based in Tijuana, Mexico. Born in Italy, he grew up in Colombia and Peru until his teenage years, then moving to Italy. After he completed his studies on photography in the European Institute of Design and Visual Arts in Rome, he worked for Italian newspapers. Since 2001, he has mostly focused his work in Latin America, documenting on social, cultural, health and human rights related issues. In 2004 he implemented the project “La prima cosa” (the first thing) about poor families’ difficulties in finding a house. His project was awarded with the 2005 Canon Award. In 2005, he went back to Bogotá.

From 2006 to 2008 he documented the social changes and aspects of Venezuela during the government of Hugo Chavez.

Since 2010, Fabio lives in Mexico, where he has documented aspects of the conflict provoked by the ongoing war for territory control between drug cartels and the State. At present, he is working on a long-term project called “Dark Passage”, about the odyssey of thousands of illegal migrants.
“Dark Passage” is a project about the long and difficult odyssey that thousands of migrants face every day along the way to reach the Northern-Mexican border to cross and finally arrive in the United States of America.

“Dark passage” is a metaphor that illustrates this experience and has Mexico as the main subject of attention. Its unique geographical location makes this country a long passage, that migrants around the world use to reach the ideal of enhancing their life condition in the United States. This vast territory is turning into a “dark passage” because, in the last decade, a number of factors have increasingly exposed migrants to extortion, violence, kidnapping, and theft.

Each year, more than 400,000 Central American migrants cross the southern-Mexican border on their way to the United States. The precarious economic situation of millions of people in Central American countries like Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, stimulates the flow of people towards the United States. A flow that seems unstoppable. Each day, hundreds of Central Americans leave their countries of origin, their families, their goods, and start a journey that is supposed to end in the USA, where they would find economic opportunities benefiting themselves and their families. But this journey towards the North, very often turns into a nightmare. Their condition of “invisibility”, of “clandestinity”, increases the vulnerability of those women, men and children that experience this dark passage, and makes them an easy prey for Mexican organized crime.

This project focuses on people travelling by the freight train called “La Bestia” (the beast), to get to the Northern parts of Mexico. The majority of migrants travel during the day on the freight trains that cross the country from South to North, facing different risks: from falling down the trains, to getting kidnapped. During the short stops, used for changing train, or during the wait for someone who could take them further north, they find food at shelters.

In the last years, levels of criminality have increased in Mexico, due to a number of conflicts for territory control between criminal organizations managing narcotrafic. In the middle of this war, illegal migrants become the silent victims of these organizations: kidnapping, forced prostitution, human trafficking and slavery, are the crimes that systematically harm migrants who cross Mexico in search for the “American dream”. According to the National Commission for Human Rights, in 2012 more than 11,000 migrants have been kidnapped, with an average of 54 kidnappings per day. The aim of this practice is to blackmail families in the United States in order to get money (from $1000 to $5000 per migrant). Such crimes have become a constant practice that generally goes unpunished. There is evidence migrants are subject to extreme cruelty treatment performed by organized crime, which is – more than ever – connected to narcotrafic and with the involvement of local corrupt authorities. The massive kidnappings are usually performed between the railroads of the trains on which migrants travel clandestinely towards the United States.

The reports collected by Human Rights organizations from the relatives of the desaparecidos – missing people – as well as the discovery of clandestine communal graves testimony on how Central American migrants are being victims of the worst crimes against humanity. I call it “dark passage”, because along the way the migrants do not exist according to the Mexican State and their own Countries. They are invisible, clandestine and, therefore, easy victims of extortion, violence, and theft whereas absolute impunity is granted to the perpetrators.
ALBINISM IN AFRICA: INTERVIEW WITH STÉPHANE EBONGUE KOUBE

By Hana Abul Husn and Marina Mazzini

How do you define albinism in Africa?
Apart from the scientific definition that connects it to rarity, melanin and skin tissue, in Africa one must include prejudices in the definition of albinism. There are many prejudices. For example, people believe that albinos are immortal, have the ability to see at night, that parts of their body are useful for magical potions. So it is one thing to be an albino and another still to be an albino in Africa due to these types of prejudices.

The perception also varies in another way; those that believe strongly in the powers of albinos do not have albinos in their family or close to them. Once people have an albino close to them they realize that these perceptions are completely false. It is those that see albinos from far away or have never even seen an albino, who will be most susceptible to false beliefs. For example, my wife used to have a different perception of albinos, thought of them as strange people, but once we met and loved one another she no longer gave the issue any thought. She now sees albinos like any other person with their defects and merits.

Those that believe strongly in the powers of albinos do not have albinos in their family or close to them

In your opinion have albinos in African society always been perceived as people to fear, to isolate or use in rituals?
Africa is made up for 54 countries so the situation is not exactly the same everywhere. There are some places where albinos are considered like a gift from the Gods. In other places albinos are considered a curse. Albinos have a different value depending on where they are living. In both cases there is always this idea that the parts of the body of albinos or the life of an albino can be useful for society, but I must emphasize that depending on where they are they are not treated exactly the same way.

This has always been the case because it is a problem connected to culture, and a bit to animism. Animism in Africa is a belief that exists regardless of social strata, regardless of education; it asserts that all living things have a spirit (water, wind, trees), all things that exist. And this mode of thinking makes it such that death does not exist, death is a form of life and those that are deceased must live somewhere and serve as a channel between God and the living. This belief considers all events in African society, such as the birth of an albino child or twins, abundant rain, the eruption of a volcano, barren women, in connection with animism and relationships between the world of the living and the ancestors.

What are the main challenges of being born with albinism
in Africa?
Apart from the clinical problems, the main two being myopia and fragile skin that burns easily in the sun, there are social problems. Albinos are sometimes not even accepted in their own families, they have difficulty finding work, and they are killed on a daily basis. The other aspect of being an albino is that they are unable to attend school because albinism is considered a handicap. Many leave school for the street because of poor vision, they sometimes have such weak eyesight that they cannot see the blackboard so they abandon school and end up on the streets becoming either prostitutes or beggars.

There is always this idea that the parts of the body of albinos or the life of an albino can be useful for society

In some countries it is believed that to give an albino offering, for example if one has a project or a person wants a visa to go to the West, will ensure that one's needs will be fulfilled or problem will be resolved. The social consequence is that albinos are confined to being beggars, they do not go to school and they are engaged in the prostitution ring.

If an albino is sacrificed for a certain purpose and that purpose is not achieved, are there reprisals against albinos?
No, there are no reprisals. On the contrary, it is believed that perhaps the offering was not substantial enough or not properly made. The fact is that those who give the offerings are absolutely certain that these sacrifices will give results, so when the results are not seen the person who made the offering feels guilty for not using the sacrifice properly. To give another example, on the eve of Election Day politicians will make human sacrifices to win. When a politician has not won a government seat he thinks that maybe his witchdoctor was not capable or strong enough to properly use the sacrifice - the next time he turns to a stronger witchdoctor. When you have elections only two outcomes are possible, someone wins and someone loses, the winner had a stronger witchdoctor and the loser will turn to a stronger witchdoctor the next time.

Football matches are also occasions for which albinos are murdered. Albinos can be sacrificed to go as far as possible in the competition. Again, when a team loses they believe that the witchdoctor was not skilled enough. Football teams can be accompanied by the so called "conseiller psycologique" (psychological counselors). They have nothing to do with the sport and if you investigate you find that they are witchdoctors giving advice of another nature to the team, recommending what to do from a metaphysical and magical point of view to win the competition or at least to get as far as possible in it. If one was not successful,
only the blood of one or more albinos could placate the God following the eruption of the volcano. And so these things are not at the same level.

Among albinos themselves, is there this same belief that they have special powers?
One that is used to begging ends up believing it. In fact for them it even becomes a source of income, so he/she says to himself that yes, he/she has a power... They begin to believe they have this power because at times they do not have a choice; it becomes a source of gain.

Albinos receive ritualistic gifts in the eve of elections and in some cases are enrolled in the army as human amulets
That said, albinos themselves do not profit from the black market that thrives off of them, it is not like I give you my hand and you give me a million dollars. This black market of limbs, organs etc. profits other people and organizations. The process is that they stop you at night, they attack you, they hack off whatever they want or they kill you and remove whatever they want. The albino never profits in this situation. Instead, the gain comes from if someone gives me money for a tuft of hair, if I go to bed with someone, these types of small things that profit them personally.

How is discrimination against albinos linked to religion?
It is not linked to religion, but more so to traditions. Religion is a very...
recent phenomenon with respect to discrimination, which has always existed against albinos. In my opinion, religion is more recent as it arrived with colonization. Instead, the subject of albinos existed from when Africa began to exist, so we cannot connect the two. The problem is cultural and found in the traditions of Africa.

And the witchdoctor is a figure of tradition and ritual?
Yes, when we speak about the witchdoctor we need to differentiate between the witchdoctor and the shaman. The apprenticeship is the same; they have the same power, which is neither positive nor negative. Power is power, it just depends on how one decides to use it. On one hand there are those that heal, this is called traditional medicine, they do not send for albinos to be killed. Though they are different, they use the same power and have the same secrets. On the other hand is a witchdoctor who uses his power for profit and negative ends, distinguishing the two figures.

Is it worse to be born with albinism in cities or in rural areas?
Beliefs are the same everywhere. Albinos are marginalized in these societies regardless of the place, be it in the city or in rural areas. However, perhaps in rural areas the situation is a bit better because consumerism has not yet taken over. In cities persecution may be more widespread; somehow it is easier to be attacked because the poverty there is harsher. Women who want to marry, politicians that want to be elected, football players that want to win competitions are more numerous in cities than in villages.

Albinos are always running the huge risk of being killed, but they cannot simply decide to leave one area for another. Leaving is not a simple or even feasible option for most; after all, one has to eat everyday. For those who do not have enough to eat everyday how can they possibly think of buying a ticket and leaving the country? To add to this, many of them are illiterate because of the challenges to attend school, so this idea of going away may not even occur to them. They could possibly relocate, but a social cage forms around them and perpetuates their situation.

However, to win the elections you need an albino heart, to prevent a natural catastrophe you need the head, the body, the entire albino

Those that are caught in a prostitution ring, born into poverty, into the life of a beggar and live in these same areas stay there and continue to live this way because nobody says anything. I met a girl that has oral cancer, all her lips are ridden with tumors, but she is still limited to begging, even in this case the state does nothing. Her husband threw her out, she has two kids and her family does not want her. Without the money to get treatment she does not have any other chance than begging.

Are families that include a family member with albinism discriminated against? And are they at a certain point forced to “take advantage” of albino children?
They are discriminated against in the sense that sometimes the albino is thought of as a curse, but it is the albino himself or herself who is subjected to the worst discrimination. In terms of taking advantage, it can happen that poor families count on their albinos children for survival. Some parents with an albino child born to them have few options, either they kill the child themselves to have...
Can you tell us about the creation of albino communities to escape discrimination, kidnappings and killings?

Let us go back to the island of Ukerewe, which I believe is a unique case. It was quite an original solution to enclose all the albinos on this island to protect them from further attacks. Very often albinos group themselves in associations to resist prejudices, but more than anything else to help one another out because they do not receive any help especially in term of medical aid. Albinos form these associations to face problems together, for instance sunscreen and sunglasses are distributed for free to all the members of the association.

Do you think the confinement of albinos to certain areas could lead to the formation of a minority group?

Yes, of course the risk of ghettoization or of the creation of a minority is present. Even the creation of schools for albinos is a form of creating or reinforcing a minority. This is why I think that the method in dispute should not be to confine albinos, but to raise awareness. We must speak to people, explain to them that albinos do not have these powers that they think they do, go into schools and teach children about albinism. In particular we should work on positive exposure, asking those albinos that have had some success to speak out about their experience. For example an albino that is a minister can speak to other albinos who are beggars and tell them that their position in life is not to beg. This could give a sense of society they invent these prejudices to be able to take it out on someone else, a group that is weaker, a minority.

Are there organizations that collect and take care of the albino children that families do not want?

Yes, there are some people or families that gather together these unwanted children or people. In Cameroon there is an organization like this, in Tanzania the state had a creative solution where they grouped together and closed off all albinos on an island called Ukerewe.

Concrete actions are needed from the states to consider albinos like any other citizen and to give them tools to succeed.

Do you think albinism is linked to the fear of whoever is different that many societies have often harbored?

Albinism is a genetic complication present in all of the animal kingdom, there are even albino plants. But the prejudices are linked, I would not say to fear, but to the notion of the different. To somehow vent and avoid the implosion of society they invent these prejudices to be able to take it out on someone else, a group that is weaker, a minority. It is a social mechanism to regulate the perpetuity of society somehow. It is the fear of what is different that we see everywhere, in all human societies.

Interview

him/her disappear immediately or sell him/her to whoever wants. In this way yes, the families take advantage of the situation.

Is there some kind of estimate of how many albinos are killed per year?

No, in my opinion, there is no reliable estimate because of the nature of the killings and since many cases are not reported. Some families also fear reprisals so they do not report murders. In addition, a family that decides to kill its own albino child will never report this.

Are there legal repercussions to encouraging or engaging in the persecution of people with albinism?

Legal norms are generic, but the state claims that it cannot put a policeman behind each citizen. These incidents happen at night so again we turn to sensitization because by night there is no security for albinos or non-albinos, but the problem is that violence against albinos is admired. If people understood that it does not serve any function to kill albinos, things could change. There is even this belief that those who have HIV/AIDS and go to bed with an albino woman will be cured. As a result, 52% of female albinos are infected with HIV/AIDS. So, to inform people that going to bed with an albino woman does not cure any disease, it only infects the victim, could possibly help change the situation.

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Do you think albinos will be able to integrate if societies are able to accept and protect them?
If we do something, if we start to sensitize people, then yes because the cultural problems do not change from day to day. Time is needed, dialogue is needed, and a vast amount of awareness is needed. Concrete actions are needed from the states to consider albinos like any other citizen and to give them tools to succeed. For example, several times at school I had to consult a blank page because a font size of 9 or 10 made it impossible for me to read. I was at a disadvantage not because I was not able to compete, but because I was not given access to the competition. In my opinion states need to do something about this. Positive discrimination does not interest me. I want to see changes such that if an albino cannot read the documents given to him or her, the text is enlarged to size 14. However, states do not do this. In the case of sunscreen and medical treatment, states need to understand that looking after an albino’s skin is not an easy task. Here in Italy, albinism is considered a rare disease and sunscreen is distributed by the public health system, it should be the same everywhere. This will facilitate and favor the integration of albinos. By being exposed to an albino journalist, minister, lawyer, doctor, others will begin to understand that the beliefs they held are wrong.

Awareness in my opinion is the most important issue, but there are problems in the field where we need to intervene. For example, I am involved in a project at the moment with the NGO A child with a future because it is time for concrete solutions. It is not enough anymore to simply state that albinos are being killed. In the meantime they continue to die, do not attend school, and have fatal skin cancer. In my opinion we need to raise awareness, but also do something on the ground. Kids need to go to school and receive medical treatment – these are issues we should focus on. This is why I did not want to focus on my story. I want to help those that are left in Africa. They are the focus now.
About Stéphane Ebongue Koube:

I was born in Cameroon and I am an albino. I ran away from my country because I was persecuted by men who wanted my organs. They wanted to use them for talismans and magic potions. I graduated and now I work as a journalist in Turin (Italy), where I managed to find the strength to begin a long journey that is the purpose of my life: to ensure that the superstitions and prejudices that surround people like me will be once and for all, in the twenty-first century, defeated.

Every year hundreds of us disappear, as my brother Maurice, who disappeared more than 20 years ago. I don’t know what I will get, but I’m sure that it is necessary to tell about albinism. I want to go back to Cameroon to retrace the places of my life and to cope with the symbols at the base of our suffering. I will reach the volcano’s slopes to meet the wizard who believes that sacrificing albinos will placate the gods’ wrath. Furthermore, I will visit the government buildings, meeting public administrators and politicians, that I already contacted. I helped also to build the “Bibliothèque Pavillon Blanc”, a library dedicated to all albinos people and visually impaired people of Douala, my hometown. Thanks to the intervention of some Italian associations and foundations, in fact, I bought special computers and books printed in a larger font. And finally, the Bibliothèque was inaugurated on 28th January 2014 also thanks to the support of Fondazione 7 Novembre Onlus and Apri Onlus.

Stéphane’s story is reported in the audio documentary "White Africa, from Cameroon to Piemonte – an albino’s self-rescue" (by Barbara D’Amico and Fabio Lepore, listenable on http://vimeo.com/51428950). The audio documentary was awarded at the Bellaria Film Festival in 2013. And now, Stéphane’s inquiry to the roots of African superstitions on albinism is also becoming a video documentary. Produced by Smart Factory with the support of Piemonte Doc Film Fund – Fondo regionale per il documentario, it will be released on 2015 (more info on www.facebook.com/stephane.thedocumentary).
The death penalty: a child rights issue and a public health issue

By Helen Kearney

2013 saw the first ever United Nations Human Rights Council panel discussion on Children of Parents Sentenced to Death or Executed. The author summarizes new research on this neglected topic.
There is a striking lack of research on the impacts of a parent’s death sentence or execution on their children. Across the range of perspectives in the death penalty debate, people generally give little thought to those left behind. In practice, the individualism of criminal justice systems around the world means that the voices of offenders’ children are routinely unheard. This article explores the multidimensional harm that these children endure. It draws on interviews with psychologists, lawyers, social workers and activists from around the world, citing examples of good practices. It calls for a more holistic understanding of capital punishment systems, including the social, economic and psychological impacts on lives that were never intended to be the targets of death penalty laws.

**Homelessness and alternative care**
In some countries, especially where the death penalty is applied in cases of death by domestic violence, children may lose both parents. Poverty and stigma combine to mean that these orphans often end up on the street. No one knows how many children are left to fend for themselves when a parent is sentenced to death.

Shuqin Zhang was a supervisor within the Chinese prison system and a journalist focusing on prison-related issues. "I realized that many children were left without a carer after a parent was convicted and sentenced. I saw that these children were threatened by hunger, disease and death, often turning to begging or crime to survive.” Shuqin or ‘Granny Zhang’, as the

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*I'd never thought about any of these people having a family (...) it was like they were hatched and grew up in isolation (...) Now I wish people could understand that everyone who is executed had a mother and a father, maybe brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, friends, whatever, and that each one of these people have been hurt and impacted by the execution.*

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*Irene Cartwright, whose son was executed in 2005, in Murder Victims’ Families for Human Rights Reports, Creating More Victims, 2006*
children call her, established the first Sun Village in 1996 to provide foster care and education to children who were left without a carer when their parent was executed or imprisoned for life. Now there are six Sun Villages across China. Since 1996, the Sun Villages have supported over 2000 children.

**Emotional and behavioural consequences**

Grief and loss are always experienced in a social context. When that context is not supportive, the pain of the bereaved is not validated. Grief counsellors and therapists have found that when grief is hidden and unsupported, the bereaved often express intense anger, guilt and shame. Grieving is prolonged and healing is more difficult. Perhaps unsurprisingly, psychologists working with children and families of those sentenced to death or executed in the USA have found that many experience this peculiarly difficult type of ‘disenfranchised grief’, leading to depression, severe anxiety, self-induced isolation, somatic illnesses, withdrawal, sleep disturbances and emotional problems.

In the People’s Republic of China, social workers observe that children of executed parents often suffer from tremendous and irrational guilt. They emphasise the importance of “talking it out of their heads — repeatedly and radically”, observing a range of stress-related symptoms: “bed-wetting, short attention spans, denial, flashbacks, self-harm.”

**In practice, the individualism of criminal justice systems around the world means that the voices of offenders’ children are routinely unheard**

Children and families who have suffered the trauma of a loved one’s death sentence or execution report the loss of a sense of basic fairness, justice and order. Depending on a wide range of factors (the parent’s crime, the social, political and cultural context in which the execution takes place, and the individual child’s temperament and personality), the lost notion of fairness may result in a strong desire to reject or confront authority.

Activist Robert Meeropol, whose parents were executed in the USA in 1953, writes “I was frightened, angry, and grew up with a suppressed need to attack those who had attacked my family.” In the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iman Shirali will not accept the authority of those who executed his father in 1983 and refuses to participate in ‘the system’. In a short film shot with a hand-held camera and posted on YouTube, he shouts “I have never voted and I never will, because I don’t want to have the Islamic Republic’s stamp on my birth certificate right next to my father’s name, where it says ‘Iman Shirali, son of Iraj’.”

Stakeholders in several countries note the importance of telling children the truth about their parents’ whereabouts and, wherever possible, helping them to maintain a relationship with their parent on death row. After a parent’s execution, stakeholders consistently recommend that children be told what has happened.

In Uganda, staff at NGO Wells of Hope bring children to visit their pa-
rent on death row once every three months. The staff of Wells of Hope know the guards at the local prisons and they generally arrange visits that are child-friendly.

**I was frightened, angry, and grew up with a suppressed need to attack those who had attacked my family**

Contact is allowed and children can sit on the parent’s lap. Wells of Hope staff also pointed out that, in Uganda, families are not usually notified of a loved-one’s execution or upcoming execution. Director Francis Ssuubi noted “When someone receives a death sentence, many people assume that they have already been put to death and so the children may not even be aware that their parent is still alive.”

**Human Rights Council Panel, September 2013**

These children have recently been put on the agenda at the United Nations. 2013 saw the first ever Human Rights Council panel discussion dedicated to this issue. Panellist Associate Professor Sandra Jones of Rowan University in the USA spoke of research into the grief, trauma and internalised shame that these children endure. Francis Ssuubi, Director of Wells of Hope in Uganda, addressed the need for criminal justice systems that facilitate contact between the child and their incarcerated parent. Member of the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child, Jorge Cardona, spoke of the need to consider the best interests of the child when arresting, sentencing, imprisoning and executing a parent. In the ensuing discussion, some States requested further information, including reliable statistics on the numbers of affected children. It was noted that this issue is relevant to children in both retentionist and abolitionist countries, as many States continue to apply the death penalty for drugs-related offences. As a consequence, there are hundreds (if not thousands) of foreign nationals who are facing the death penalty. No government can be sure that one of its citizens will not receive the death sentence and that their children will not be affected.

**A child rights issue and a public health issue**

All the evidence indicates that children are left traumatized, grieving and angry when a parent is given the death penalty. Moreover – beyond the individual children – attention to the trauma, grief and exclusion suffered by a child
whose parent is sentenced to death or executed compels us to connect the injustices suffered by these children with much wider structures of violence and discrimination. In turn, attention to larger social problems usually directs attention to situations in which adults are suffering alongside children in the households and communities where they live. Perhaps more than any other category of rights-bearers, a child’s well-being is enmeshed in the social, economic and cultural contexts in which he or she exists. Attention to the welfare of children is essential for its own sake, but a child rights perspective also invites us to go beyond the individualistic focus of conventional criminal justice.

**No government can be sure that one of its citizens will not receive the death sentence and that their children will not be affected**

The interconnectedness of the child invites us to explore both the extent of the web of harm caused by a death sentence or execution, and the complex social reality in which the offence originated.

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**The author**

**Helen Kearney**

Helen Kearney is an Advocacy and Communications Consultant, based just outside Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to this, she was Plan International’s UN Advocacy Officer, and Project Officer at the Quaker UN Office (where this research began). Helen’s interest in child and adolescent mental health stems from her time as a Youth Worker in the UK and Guatemala, where she worked primarily with young offenders. Helen holds a degree in Modern Languages (Politics and Philosophy) from Cambridge, and a Masters in Human Rights from Sussex. She is also a part-time Psychology student with the Open University.
Webcam child sex tourism: stopping the growing number of predators

By Raffaele K Salinari

Among many others the Webcam Child Sex Tourism (WCST) is one of the emerging crimes against children and represents a violation of the United Nations Conventions on child rights. WCST is illegal in most countries. Some have laws prohibiting adults from conversing with minors about sex. Others prohibit “enticing” a minor to engage in sexual conduct. Other countries outlaw showing obscene images to minors, and most countries prohibit viewing sexual images and sexual performances involving minors. Thus, Governments should adopt policies that give their law enforcement agencies the mandate to proactively search for predators seeking to engage in WCST on public online places known to be hotspots for child abuse.
Key question: how to approach a rather hidden phenomenon with global root causes?
Terre des Hommes Netherland, member of the International Federation Terre des Hommes, has tried to give an
answer to this key question also in order to give a concrete and theoretical contribution to the Freedom From Fear
initiative.
Rising internet usage rates and persistent poverty in the developing world have fostered the emergence of a rapidly
growing new form of online child sexual exploitation. Webcam Child Sex Tourism takes place when adults pay or
offer other rewards in order to direct and view live streaming video footage of children in another country performing
sexual acts in front of a webcam. WCST enables predators to sexually abuse children in other countries with ease and
frequency using their Internet-connected personal computers. And despite the fact that WCST is prohibited by inter-
national laws and most national criminal codes, the enforcement of those laws has so far been lax. Terre des Hommes
works to end child exploitation and to assist victims around the world.
In recent years, we have been overwhelmed by the surging number of child victims of WCST in the Philippines. The
psychological damage that exploitation through WCST has on children is profound and permanent. We recognize
that victim assistance alone cannot stop the expansion of such a rapidly growing form of child exploitation. That
knowledge motivated us to undertake this study in search of a solution that governments around the world can apply
to reduce the global demand for WCST.

Rising internet usage rates and persistent poverty in the developing world have fostered the emergence of a rapidly growing new form of online child sexual exploitation

Key facts: the United Nations and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation estimate that there are 750,000 preda-
tors connected to the Internet at any moment. Those predators contribute to a vast global demand for WCST, sugge-
sting that this form of long-distance child abuse appears to take place with great frequency. However, the alarming fact
that only six predators have ever been convicted for engaging in WCST should inspire shame and immediate action
by governments around the world. This is a problem that urgently needs to capture the world’s attention.

The psychological damage that exploitation through WCST has on children is profound and permanent

Insight: the vast global demand for WCST provides incentives for criminals, and causes impoverished parents and vulnerable children in developing countries to capitalize on the opportunity to raise their income by increasing the "supply" of those who perform webcam sex shows for money or other rewards. Taking targeted action to reduce the global demand for WCST that is sustained by online predators will effectively reduce the growing number of child victims who constitute the "supply" side of the trade.

Our research: what started as research into the WCST trade led us to a viable solution to this global problem. We began the research for this report by gathering information about the nature of the phenomenon of WCST: the physical and online environments in which it takes place, the global trends that have fostered its emergence, and the legal status of WCST in international law and in the national criminal and penal codes of 21 countries. We found that the legal framework prohibiting WCST widely exists, but governments are not adequately enforcing their own child protection laws when the victims are located outside of their borders. Our finding that only six predators worldwide have been convicted for engaging as customers in WCST highlights further this point.

That finding led us to wonder how often WCST actually takes place online. Four Terre des Hommes Netherlands researchers spent 10 weeks posing as prepubescent Filipino girls on 19 public chat rooms. During that short period, a total of 20,172 predators from 71 countries committed crimes by soliciting the researchers, whom the predators believed to be minors, for paid webcam sex performances. But 20,172 crimes in a sample of 19 chat rooms likely reflects only a small fraction of the number of crimes actually taking place every day when we consider the US Federal Bureau of Investigation’s estimates that there are 40,000 online chat rooms on which predators lurk. Moreover, WCST takes place on social networking sites, adult webcam sites and online dating sites, in addition to chat rooms. It is likely that WCST takes place tens of thousands of times each day.

The alarming fact that only six predators have ever been convicted for engaging in WCST should inspire shame and immediate action by governments around the world

The finding that WCST is such a common crime on public chat rooms led us to investigate whether law enforcement agencies are not adequately enforcing existing child protection laws because they are unable to identify predators engaging in WCST. Although is difficult to proving the crime because the nature of the webcam evidence is created only through record of a session, we found that identifying predators seeking webcam sexual performances from children can be achieved through the use of a proactive investigation technique. During the 10 weeks spent collecting data, the four Terre des Hommes Netherlands researchers identified 1,000 predators seeking webcam sex performance from children on public chat rooms. They were identified using only information available in public online databases and data provided by predators. No computer hacking or illegal methods were applied. Instead, we just asked predators to provide identifying information under the fictional pretext – a technique known as "social hacking". So we were also able to record some web came sessions.

The full report, available on the website of the TDH International Federation and the Dutch website of TDH is the most comprehensive study on WCST undertaken to date. However, the findings of the TDH NL research, while alarming, only provide a small glimpse into how vast the phenomenon of WCST actually is. While we cannot extrapolate conclusions about the global prevalence of WCST, we do prove that there is a very high incidence of predators seeking WCST on 19 public chat rooms in a 10-week period. Furthermore, based on our analysis of trends in technological developments and other forms of child sexual exploitation, we predict that the WCST trade will continue to grow and spread to other countries if governments around the world do not take immediate action. If action is not taken, we fear that WCST will spiral as far out of control as the online child pornography industry, which is now a multi-billion dollar international trade that law enforcement agencies cannot reign in.

Call to action: in some countries law enforcement agencies are limited by investigation policies – they investigate crimes against child victims of WCST only after children report the crimes. But, for a number of reasons, children do not report these crimes very often. We call on government agencies in those countries to immediately adopt proactive law enforcement policies that empower law enforcement agencies to patrol public online spaces known to be hotspots for WCST and to prosecute predators
committing these crimes without waiting for children or parents to report them.

The legal framework prohibiting WCST widely exists, but governments are not adequately enforcing their own child protection laws when the victims are located outside of their borders

Terre des Hommes Netherlands’ four researchers identified 1,000 predators in 10 weeks. In our petition (http://avaz.org/en/wcst/) we call on all government agencies in charge of justice to identify and convict 100,000 predators committing the crime of WCST before the end of 2014.

The author

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MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M.) IN
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The last stop

By Prableen Kaur

This section of Freedom From Fear includes the opinions and analyses of young people. Young people represent the most valuable capital countries have. Their opinions have to be heard and considered while designing and planning new strategies to build better societies.
Violent extremism is the last stop in a long process. It is the most visible type of extremism and it creates deep and painful traces in many people’s lives. With hindsight we ask ourselves over and over what we could have done differently. It is not necessarily wrong if we do it to learn, but if we do it to undo what cannot be undone, our starting point is wrong. We do not have time to regret. We have time to act and we must do that all the time, because violent extremism is about people’s lives. It is about the fate of people who we might be able to help. The debate about violent extremism is not necessarily merely about what we are left with in the aftermath of a tragic event, but about what forms people who are willing to take to violence to express their opinions.

Because violent extremism is about people’s lives. It is about the fate of people who we might be able to help

In 2011 the Norwegian Government building was bombed in Oslo. Only hours later, politically engaged youth were chased and killed at a summer camp on an island. 77 lives were lost because one man felt that he had to resort to violent extremism. There are no excuses for such actions or any arguments that might justify them. So why did violence become the last recourse? Was there no room for Anders Behring Breivik’s opinions in the public debate? Was there no community he could be part of that gave him a sense of belonging? Was there no one who saw the process he went through? I think these questions are universal when it comes to violent extremists. We ask them over and over again when such events take place.

No people are born extremists. It’s a gradual process whether it is political or religious extremism.

Maybe we are easier formed in communities where we feel a sense of belonging, and maybe that is why people who are lonely have to search for companionship by themselves for a long time. When they find something that resembles a companion, they might easily accept whatever views the companion holds. Therefore, I now ask myself when I meet people who seem alone: “Do they feel excluded?
Can we expand the circle a bit, so that there will be space for them? Is it better to let intolerant, abnormal or even extremists’ opinions be voiced inside society’s circle of open debate, than for the people who held them to be left outside the circle and feel lonely? The desire to be part of something bigger than ourselves can do a lot to us.

The desire to be part of something bigger than ourselves can do a lot to us.

**The reason why some become extremists has been coupled with the search for identity**

In the last decades, the focus on violent extremisms has been primarily on minority youth whose parents immigrated to Europe. The reason why some become extremists has been coupled with the search for identity. This youth grow up in an environment where the expectations from parents and society can be too much to live up to, which makes them seek out others in similar situations. In certain situations this identity feeling can be so strong that it tends towards identity models shaped by extremist groups. Yet, with the example of 22nd of July 2011 in Norway, we see that this search for identity or roots does not only affect this minority small group within society. It is a phenomenon that affects a lot of people in the post-modern society where everyone has the opportunity of self-accomplishment. Thus, it is important to maintain an open mind and sight, because extremism is something people can hide under the surface.

In this gradual process towards extremism, people might see, hear or otherwise notice symptoms. I think we all as individuals can contribute to preventing extremism. We can include more people in our communities; we can debate against extreme opinions, alert family or others that are close to a person who is in danger of acting on their extreme opinions. Politicians need to focus on creating common meeting grounds where there is room for different opinions and people. That is one way different people can meet and develop tolerance and respect for each other. At the same time these are also areas in which a sense of belonging and identity can be built. There, clear guidelines should be created to define what schools, universities and work places must do when they become aware of someone at risk of acting on extremist views.

This is also about keeping more than one thought in the head at the same time. The first one is that those holding extremist views know that there are sanctions for acting upon their views. The second one is that people observing others who are developing extremist views know how to act to prevent them from committing violent actions. Preventing extremism is about setting clear boundaries and making sure the consequences for overstepping them are known. That will make the threshold for resorting to violence higher. Law has to clearly embody the principle that there is room for extreme opinions, but not for extremist actions. Extreme opinions are not dangerous in themselves. There should be a very high threshold to ban the voicing of an opinion, but the problem arises when the extreme opinions remain in a closed forum where only people with the same views debate. By letting extreme opinions and voices join the larger area of the open debate in society, we contribute to letting different voices out in the light. In an open debate, opinions can be discussed and met by critical and constructive counter-arguments.

**Ignorance is the greenhouse where the most horrible flowers grow**

Whatever we do, we must always remember that extreme opinions are allowed, but it is when these expressions became violent acts, that the process has gone too far. There is a lot you and I as individuals and as part of a community can do to prevent violent acts from happening. For prevention we need knowledge and we must put aside beliefs and prejudices. The renowned Norwegian author Lars Saabye Christensen wrote: “Ignorance is the greenhouse where the most horrible flowers grow.”

**The author**

**Prableen Kaur** (20) is a law student at University of Oslo and member of the Oslo City Council. Prableen Kaur was a participant at the “Uteya Summer Camp” in 2011. She was awarded “Norwegian of the Year” price in 2011 and published her first book in 2012.
China’s commitment to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

By Giovanni Nicotera
In its 2012 survey covering 178 countries, Transparency International ranked China at 3.5 in what is called the Corruption Perceptions Index, the 80th country, together with Serbia and Trinidad and Tobago. To see things from another point of view, China was the fourth-lowest ranking of G20 nations with only Argentina, India, Indonesia and Russia scoring lower. At such levels, corruption poses a threat to China’s political stability and sustainable development, especially at a time when China’s ‘Gini’ coefficient, a statistical measure of income inequality, is at 0.47 close to that 0.5 threshold where inequality is severe and calls for immediate action. Many experts believe that this widening wealth gap is partly the result of large amounts of “illegal income” resulting from corruption.

The government leaders have openly expressed great concern about this situation in more than one occasion and have started a series of anti-corruption initiatives both at national and international level. The main action undertaken at international level is China’s engagement in the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Indeed, anti-corruption efforts, and, particularly, the recovery of illicit gains, need international cooperation in criminal matters to bring results at the national level.

**The main action undertaken at international level is China’s engagement in the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).**

China fully became aware of this and supported UNCAC since its inception by sending intergovernmental delegations to the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna to work in the special committee in charge of drafting the Convention. Thus, China can claim to have been an active participant in a process that has seen several countries and the United Nations being able to deliver to the world – in a record time span of 18 months – the first and so far only global anti-corruption instrument. Moreover, China was among the first countries to ratify the Convention (in October 2005), even before several developed countries, and while ratification should always be considered a starting point, rather than the end of an endeavor, this early ratification reflects positively on the country.

China accords great importance to this instrument in virtue of its four main elements: (1) Prevention; (2) Criminalization and law enforcement; (3) International cooperation; and (4) Asset Recovery. Likely enough, however, China pays particular attention to this last section as it is especially innovative in offering practical tools for the recovery of assets even with regard to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). In fact, not only one of the four main chapters of the UNCAC is devoted entirely to asset recovery, but also throughout the entire text of the Convention one finds additional references to asset recovery and to the return of the proceeds of crime. For example, Article 1 (b) which includes among the purposes of the Convention the promotion, facilitation and support of international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including asset recovery. The list continues with Article 46 (3–k) on mutual legal assistance, Articles 60 (1–h) and 60 (5) dealing with technical assistance and information exchange, and Article 63 (4–b) on the work of the Conference of the State Parties. Such provisions could greatly help China in recovering the ill-gotten money taken overseas by corrupt officials.

Chinese judicial experts agree that the ratification of the UNCAC is indeed a milestone in China’s fight against graft, but at the same time call for amendments to criminal law with a view to revise those articles which are inconsistent with this Convention and include legal provisions not yet present. Here we will just recall a few areas where revisions are needed. Current provisions require that bribery crimes include ‘material enrichment’, while for Chapter III of the Convention, the presence of an ‘undue advantage’ is sufficient, thus including all unlawful profits, and not necessarily material properties, nor real acquisitions but maybe merely promises, all should be considered as ‘briberies’. Penalties are another issue requiring attention. Currently the Chinese law stipulates heavier punishments than laws overseas by foreseeing that a person found guilty of taking a bribe of 100,000 Yuan (approximately US$16,400) can be jailed for 10 years or more, compared to a maximum of seven to eight years in other countries. And, when the crime reaches a certain level of severity, it can lead to death penalty. These differences make it difficult for China to seek international cooperation in countering economic and financial crimes.

The latest development with respect to China’s engagement with the UNCAC is the government’s decision to accept that other State Parties to the Convention assess China’s compliance with the treaty during the 2010–2015 review cycle under the authority of the Conference of State Parties, a
body established pursuant to article 63 of UNCAC to improve the capacity of, and cooperation between, state parties to achieve UNCAC objectives and to promote and review its implementation. While the results of this review will not be made public, it is likely that they will highlight the need for more work to bring Chinese legislation in line with the Convention. Such legal reform process will take time to complete and this is for several reasons going beyond a Chinese entrenched preference for taking step-by-step approaches. On one side, the fight against corruption has different degrees of efficiency depending on the political system in force, whether multi-party or single party, and whether based on the separation of powers or not. On the other side, in today’s global economy, corruption and money laundering, recovery and return of its proceeds, require more than ever international cooperation and this cooperation is often hampered not only by lack of resources and specific expertise, but also by obstacles of political and ideological nature.

Beyond the work of scholars and practitioners in crafting these needed legal reforms, the commitment of the Chinese leadership will be key to China’s success in its anti-corruption campaign, and from what we can see lately the commitment of the leaders is there. If to this commitment of its leaders, China will add a continued strengthening of those mechanisms that allow the participation of the public, a more active involvement of the media, a more independent judiciary and an increase in transparency in the management and accountability of public finances, solid foundations will have been laid for achieving the Country’s goal of a ‘well-off society’ by 2021, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party. Will the government succeed in its campaign against corruption? It is a daunting challenge for anyone and particularly for a government that not only wants to ensure that budgetary expenditures will be corruption-free, but also needs to reconcile the necessity of boosting economic growth with the country’s long-term pursuit of an energy-efficient, environment-friendly and sustainable development.

Chinese judicial experts agree that the ratification of the UNCAC is indeed a milestone in China’s fight against graft, but at the same time call for amendments to criminal law

China, its people and its leaders have surprised the world with their achievements in poverty reduction, an unmatched world record with the lifting of 450 million people out of poverty since the beginning of the opening-up policy 35 years ago. Defeating corruption is a battle that can be won if the same degree of will, vision and leadership is put into it, and if all countries will work harder in the implementation of the UN Conventions and in increasing their cooperation in criminal justice matters in a spirit of reciprocity.

Beyond the work of scholars and practitioners in crafting these needed legal reforms, the commitment of the Chinese leadership will be key to China’s success in its anti-corruption campaign

The author

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Rethinking security governance: a new security architecture

By Francesco Marelli

Security risks are a constant for any human society. Human beings and human societies have always strived to create an order that secures their lives, jobs, properties and the future of their children. The risks that prevented the achievement of this goal have mostly been similar throughout history and include wars, famine, economic crisis, climate change, natural disasters, technological catastrophes, terrorism, and crime.
These risks have remained to be a reality even in modern times, but today they have become more difficult to address. In present times, they have become more unpredictable and operate in an unprecedented manner often blurring our ability to foresee them and take adequate preventive measures.

What is different today? Why risks today operate so differently from the past?

In order to better understand the change in the nature of the risks we need to consider two aspects. The first is the increased global connectivity of present times that has also increased the speed with which security risks become global.

It is not suggested here that in the past the risks have not been able to spread across borders. On the contrary, in the past risks such as wars, virus, famine, financial crisis and terrorism crossed borders often and easily: for example, the bubonic plague (the Black Death) crippled human population in Europe and Asia in the 14th century; climate change caused human catastrophes across the earth in the 17th century; terrorism spread across Europe in the 19th century causing the murders of monarchs and politicians. In some instances a combination of these threats has in fact led to total collapse of social and political order.

However, the global connectivity that we see in present times has no precedent in the history of mankind and this increased connectivity has had a proportionate effect on the speed with which any risk spreads.

The global connectivity that we see in present times has no precedence in the history of mankind and this increased connectivity has had a proportionate effect on the speed with which any risk spreads.

Al Qaida “brand” has become rapidly global and operational in many countries. In 2008 the subprime mortgage crisis that started in the United States of America led to a global financial crisis and recession. We should also consider that the global spread of dual-used technologies is making it easier to develop dangerous chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons. As the cosmologist and astrophysicist Martin Rees put it, “The twenty-first century is the first in the Earth’s history when one species, ours, has the power to determine the fate of the entire biosphere.”

The second aspect relates to the inability of the nation-state (notably the main actor responsible for security) to deal with global challenges. While global connectivity has increased the speed with which risks spread and consequently their magnitude, it has, at the same time, negatively impacted on the states’ ability to control them. Privatization, deregulation, international rules and standards, limitation in taxation, all of them have restricted the freedom of states to operate in the area of security. Current political and legal structures are also proving to be inadequate for dealing with global challenges in areas such as information technology and biotechnology, where the speed, distribution and ease of using technology is growing while the costs for accessing the equipment and technology are dropping.

Neither existing international organizations nor other international systems can replace the state in confronting these risks. International systems and mechanisms have clear limitations, especially in terms of legal mandate, resources and consensus. So what can be done to confront the security risks in present times? It must be conceded that a specific cure is not available. However, if we start realizing that globalization, apart from changing the nature of risks, has also brought to us resources and opportunities that could not have been imagined before, we can start thinking and designing a new security architecture.

This new security architecture should

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reconsider security at local level. It should be able to understand the interconnection between different risks by juxtaposing state security with economics, health, food, social and environmental needs.\(^3\) It should also be able to untangle the chains of their causation of risks and predict the long term consequences of policy decisions. One of the basic tenets of such a security framework should be that security is no longer a monopoly of “traditional security agencies”, rather security can be achieved only through involvement of relevant stakeholders from various disciplines – including science and security communities, international organizations, industry and civil society. This human-centric networked approach is necessary to better understand the nature of the global risks in present times, identify solutions and create consensus around decentralized governance of security. The new security architecture should, however, not be seen as replacing the state-centric traditional solutions, but it should rather supplement them with the networked approaches. But designing the new architecture would entail a change in the constitutional nature of state, where, for example, domestic and international affairs of the state would have to be aligned rather than being carried out in isolation. To some extent, a drastic change in the nature of state functioning has already happened in recent times as states have more regularly been relying on the assistance of non-state organizations for the purposes of dispensing services in key areas such as policing, justice system, social security and armed forces. Beyond the local level the new security architecture should also rethink security at international level. As the United Nations High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change noted: “No State, no matter how powerful, can by its own efforts alone make itself invulnerable to today’s threats. Every State requires the cooperation of other States to make itself secure. It is in every State’s interest, accordingly, to cooperate with other States to address their most pressing threats, because doing so will maximize the chances of reciprocal cooperation to address its own threat priorities.”\(^4\) Yet a realistic “collective security” should consider that not all States are equal in terms of military, economic and intellectual power, and that there are more powerful countries that allocate large amount of aid to countries perceived as a risk to their own security interests. Indeed international agenda and funds are mainly governed by top-down approaches that seek short-term state-centric security solutions, treating security in isolation.

The views expressed of the author do not necessarily reflect the views and positions of UNICRI and the United Nations.

The author

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All Western governments are now searching for ways in which to ensure their cyber national security. To maximise the vast economic and social opportunities that cyberspace has to offer, the British government has transformed its approach to cyber security, setting out a new vision towards 2015 in its cyber strategy: *The UK Cyber Security Strategy: protecting and promoting the UK in a digital world*. The new strategy now serves to increase all Law Enforcement Agency cyber-related efforts that contribute to its four primary strategic objectives shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: The UK Cyber Security Strategy: protecting and promoting the UK in a digital world
Tackling cyber crime

The emphasis from central government to tackle cyber security as a priority has served to push the investigation of cyber crime to the fore. As a direct result, all UK police forces, as directed by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), contribute to the UK’s Cyber Security Strategy by carrying forward an E-Crime initiative established by ACPO which provides the strategic foundation and direction to ensure that all police forces remain alert to cyber crime activities. Being alert to cyber crime activity in reality means that any suspected online criminality or activity - no matter how small - is reported by the public and the business sector and recorded. This policing initiative continues to be embedded within the very operating culture of policing practices at all levels of policing and all police officers, whether front line responders, detectives of the Criminal Investigation Departments based at local policing divisions or regional units, all have a responsibility to contribute towards achieving the aim of the national ACPO E-Crime initiative.

Local police forces contribute to the broader cyber crime efforts of the new National Crime Agency (NCA), a powerful body of operational crime fighters who have a clear focus on public protection with a federal approach. The NCA mission shall include tackling organized crime, strengthening borders, fighting fraud and cyber crime, and protecting children and young people. The creation of the NCA marks a significant shift in the UK’s approach to tackling serious, organized, and complex crime, with an emphasis on greater collaboration across the whole law enforcement landscape in which all local police forces play a strategic role.

Local police forces have been encouraged to develop an effective two-way information sharing relationship with the NCA, to ensure they engage fully in its four operating commands which include the Economic Crime Command (ECC), providing an innovative and improved capability to deal with fraud and financial crimes, including those carried out by organized criminals, and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), which shall work with industry, government, children’s charities and law enforcement to protect children from sexual abuse and to bring offenders to account. Both of these primary arms of the NCA shall work to significantly reduce the cyber-based risks to citizens and protect the broader security of the nation and have direct links to the work of local policing. While local police forces tackle cyber-related crime at a local, regional and national level, they are no strangers to tackling more severe threats to their nation's security arising from cyber terrorism and the terrorist use of the internet.

Responding to cyber terrorism

When UK counter-terrorism police officers raided a flat in West London in October 2005, they arrested a young man, Younes Tsouli. The significance of this arrest was not immediately clear but investigations soon revealed that the Moroccan born Tsouli was the world’s most wanted ‘cyber-terrorist’. In his activities Tsou-
li adopted the user name ‘Irhabi 007’, Irhabi meaning ‘terrorist’ in Arabic, and his activities grew from posting advice on the internet on how to hack into mainframe computer systems, to assisting those in planning terrorist attacks. Tsouli trawled the internet searching for home movies in the theatres made by US soldiers concerning conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan that would reveal the inside layout of US military bases. Over time these small pieces of information were collated and passed to those planning attacks against armed forces bases. This virtual hostile reconnaissance provided insider data illustrating how it was no longer necessary for terrorists to conduct physical reconnaissance if relevant information could be captured and meticulously pieced together from the internet.

Police investigations subsequently revealed that Tsouli had 2.5million € worth of fraudulent transactions passing through his accounts which he used to support and finance terrorist activity. Pleading guilty to charges of incitement to commit acts of terrorism, Tsouli received a sixteen-year custodial sentence to be served at Belmarsh High Security Prison in London where, perhaps unsurprisingly, he has been denied access to the internet. The then National Coordinator of Terrorist Investigations, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Peter Clarke, said that Tsouli: “Provided a link to core al Qa’ida, to the heart of al Qa’ida and the wider network that he was linking into through the internet”, going on to say: “what it did shows us was the extent to which they could conduct operational planning on the internet. It was the first virtual conspiracy to murder that we had ever seen.” The case against Tsouli was the first in the UK which quickly brought about the realization that cyber-terrorism presented a real and present danger to the national security of the UK – a threat that all in authority required a better understanding to develop and deploy effective counter measures.

**Terrorist use of the internet**

The threat of cyber terrorism continues to dominate the concerns of national security policy makers, but it is the terrorist use of the internet for recruitment and radicalisation that has spurned a home-grown terrorist threat not just in the UK, by across EU Member States and in the United States. During June of 2006, Hammad Munshi, a 16 year old schoolboy from Dewsbury in Leeds of West Yorkshire, was arrested and charged on suspicion of committing terrorism related offences. Following his arrest searches were conducted at his family home where his wallet was recovered from his bedroom. It was found to contain hand-written dimensions of a sub machine gun, taken from a book entitled Expedient Homemade Firearm. At the time Munshi had excellent information technology skills and had registered and ran his own website on which he sold knives and other extremist material passing on information on how to make Napalm, as well as how to make detonators for Improvised Explosive Devices (IED’s).

While the online rhetoric of al Qa’ida cyber recruiters reached the computer in the bedroom of Hammad Munshi in west Yorkshire, WYP officers on this occasion were able to intervene before any critical security risks to citizens were realized, but not all individuals being recruited online would be prevented from carrying out attack would be stopped by UK security forces. On 22 May 2008, Nicky Reilly, aged 22, left his home in Plymouth with a rucksack containing six bottles full of nails and home-made explosives (HME). His target was the Giraffe restaurant in Exeter, a popular place to lunch for shoppers. Reilly, who has Asperger’s syndrome and a mental age of 10, was a suicide bomber, recruited on-line in local internet cafes by extremists in chat rooms who had fuelled a hatred of the West. Extremists had created a home-grown terrorist and had directed him to bomb-making websites discussing what his target should be. As Reilly was seated in the restaurant forty-four customers had also sat down to dine. One of the eleven members of staff working that day brought Reilly a drink, he sat for ten minutes before making his way to the lavatory taking his rucksack with him. Once inside a cubicle the device detonated prematurely causing injury to Reilly and damage to the restaurant. No other person was injured in the blast.

A note left at his home revealed the motivation for his actions in which he paid tribute to Osama bin Laden and called on the British and US governments to leave Muslim countries. The note declared that Western states must withdraw their support of Israel and that violence would continue until ‘the wrongs have been righted’. Reilly, appearing at court under the name of Mohammed Abdulaziz Ra-
shid Saeed, pleaded guilty to offences of attempted murder and preparing for acts of terrorism. At the Old Bailey on 30 January he was sentenced to life imprisonment. Mr Justice Calvert-Smith said that: “I am quite satisfied that these offences are so serious that only a life sentence is appropriate. This defendant currently represents a significant risk of serious harm to the public.” He went on to say that: “The offence of attempted murder is aggravated by the fact that it was long planned, that it had multiple intended victims and was intended to terrorize the population of this country. It was sheer luck or chance that it did not succeed.” The defence counsel, Kerim Fraud representing Reilly stated that: “He may comfortably be deemed to be the least cunning person ever to have come before this court for this type of offence.”

The threat of cyber terrorism in all of its forms continues to represent a serious risk to the national security of many nations, but other criminals, extremists, agitators and states themselves have also come to understand the unique potential of the internet, presenting a complex malaise of new cyber-based threats to Western democracies and their citizens. Amongst the many challenges arising from the phenomenon of cyber-based threats and security hazards, remains the urgent need to assess and critically evaluate cyber crimes to identify modes of operation.

**Proposed evaluation framework**

In order to formally analyse Cyber Crime case studies, such as the ones stated, we propose a model framework for the critical evaluation of cyber crimes based on Strategic Intelligence Management (SIM), the key terms of which include:

- **Knowledge Management (KM):** “A process of creating a value added Learning Processes (i.e. knowledge) so that knowledge becomes the strategic resource of a law enforcement agency with measurable and quantifiable value in successfully combating a crime or act of terrorism.”

- **Taxonomic categorisation of KM processes:** Gathering, Representing, Organising/Visualising, Contributing, Distributing, Collaborating and Refining.

- **Strategic Intelligence Management (SIM):** “A term that reflects an assessable framework for a complex matrix of individual or collective mental constructs (thoughts, visions, ideas, insights, learning processes, experiences, goals, expertise, values, perceptions, and expectations) held by individuals, that provides specific guidance for specific actions in pursuit of particular ends. This is undertaken by utilising knowledge within LEAs extended value systems (location, communication platforms, social media, legal requirements, jurisdiction, political and social constrains).

- **SIM Formulation:** “A pragmatic, action-oriented and result driven process of transforming LEA knowledge use from current status to the desired status based on combined Intelligence and knowledge life cycle which include the processes of collection, analysis, creation, transformation, collaboration, visualisation, storage, evaluation, refinement and assessment.”

**Proposed model**

The formulation of SIM requires a methodological approach. Our approach is based on a review of a number of publicly available intelligence models (e.g. UK NIM, EU IMM) and earlier research by Tolvanen (1998) and Akhgar (2003). In this context of ‘method engineering’ we have used a Conceptual Template for the Construction of a Methodology (CTCM) in order to identify and elaborate the core methodological components needed for SIM. CTCM core elements are illustrated in Figure 2.
According to the CTCM (Figure 1) a methodology is based on a number of problem frames (Jackson, 1995) or layers. The shape [original idea of the shape drive from the research by Tolavanen 1998] of the CTCM emphasises that different layers are neither exclusive nor orthogonal (mutually independent). Each layer complements the others and all are required to construct a methodology. Each layer has two facets: a) a conceptual description; and b) an interface projection.
The conceptual description is the ‘underlying logic’ and the interface projection is the instantiation of that logic. In essence the conceptual description represents the absolute view of the object/idea/representation and the interface projection represents the operational view. Below, we describe the core components of this CTCM and how it could be used to construct a methodology for SIM.

**Mental Construct Layer**

The Mental Construct (MC) layer of the actors within LEAs creating the methodology is the heart of the CTCM. The underlying philosophical paradigm of the methodology derives from this layer. However in law enforcement contexts there is usually more than one person or system (several actors) involved in the development of methodologies. Particularly when dealing with complex and multi-agency operations or investigations such Organised Crime (OC) cases. Hence a question will arise about whose set of mental constructs will be used?

Within the methodology development environment a range of processes will require the production of an overview of the collective set of mental constructs in play for the specific investigation or action. The collective “representation” of the set of methodology creators' mental constructs will form the layer of CTCM, e.g. the UK National Intelligence Model (NIM) and the Europol Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA).

The group mental construct (GMC) is a different mental construct than the individual actor MCs; it is rather the representation of dominated factors within each MC. For example different knowledge sets and ethical values from individuals will be projected through the GMC; although there are other elements that might be influential in the formation of the GMC such as political pressure and national security. The projection of the methodology creator(s) mental constructs will be communicated through the description of a World-View. This projection of MC onto the environment creates a semantic representation of the underlying philosophy and the perception of the methodology from methodology creator(s) perspective. It includes all the values, perceptions, understandings and knowledge of the target domain (in this case a criminal or terrorist group).
In the context of LEA activity the GMC may force the set of agents working on an investigation or prevention activity (e.g. an investigation team) to address such questions as:

- What are the driving values of the criminal/terrorist group?
- Is there any ideology?
- How much knowledge do we have about the ideology?
- How accurate is our information and knowledge about the ideology?
- Is there any pattern to behaviours? Is there any new crime pattern?
- What are our constraints when dealing with the problem situation?
- How will the end game form?
- What is the financial supply chain?
- What are the consequences of our actions?
- How do we obtain the required intelligence?
- What are the legal issues?
- What are the critical success factors in reducing vulnerability to a terrorist and organised crime attack?
- Are we seeking hard solutions (e.g. technology focused) or soft solutions (e.g. community engagement) for this problem?
- What are our ethical guidelines and codes of conduct?
- What information can we obtain from social media to gain a better understanding about the situation of concern?

**Goals and Objectives**

The next layer in the CTCM is the goals and objectives layer. Methodologies are not only used to describe the problem domain in the course of an investigation or planning of an operation, but they also should help to improve the “current situation” (before intervention). Before we discuss this layer of the CTCM we have to emphasise that goals and objectives should be based around a clear separation between the uses of the words “goals” and “objectives”. Whereby the goals represent the desired outcome in the future – the purpose of the SIM methodology in law enforcement problem solving context – objectives are the points along the way that inform the methodology user if they area on the right track. Objectives identify the critical success factors of an investigation process. This layer of the CTCM is concerned with the contextualisation of the problem situation and its domain. It is used to frame our understanding of a problem. Jackson (1995) refers to this as the “problem frame”. It deals with all the aspects of the real world one needs to consider and understand. For example the interrelationship between intelligence components such as the HUMINT and ELINT elements or people linkages directly or otherwise in the course of an investigation. This includes identification of the problem and its type in order to develop goals and objectives. The projection of the aims and objectives of a methodology is communicated to the methodology user through the boundary element of the CTCM. In them methodology construction context it should provide a clear understanding of “what is in” and “what is out” based on the methodology goals and objectives. This is illustrated in figure 3.
Figure 4: Boundary construction for the CTCM
**Conceptual Structuring**

The next layer of the CTCM is the conceptual structuring. The rationale provided by Jayaratna (1994) asserts that in the context of methodology construction we use structuring [verb] rather than structure [noun] to describe the linkages and organization of concepts. Following this then, during methodology construction it is impossible to simply and statically analyse and completely represent the goals and objectives of the methodology and required actions. It is therefore necessary to restrict attention to a smaller number of concepts and the key meaningful relationship between them. This is particularly important for envisaging the clustering of intelligence captured during an operation and creating a logical and conclusive link between the items of intelligence. The conceptual structuring layer covers procedural guidelines and service descriptions, which describe how the process of achieving the methodology’s goals and objectives should be carried out. This is usually based on a national framework or directive such as UK NIM model. The conceptual structuring of a methodology in CTCM is communicated with the methodology user through its taxonomy, reasoning, logic and ontology. This includes the rationale for the steps and stages of the methodology and the user’s goals and objectives, which should reflect the methodology’s overall goals and objectives as identified in the previous layer. IT should also communicate the key properties (such as the history, dependencies, inherited, events, instantiation, composition and decomposition, states, and emergent, services and roles and responsibilities) needed for planning, tactical understanding and strategic execution of an investigation or an operation (Tolavanen, 1993 and Jayaratna 1994)

**Models and the Modelling structure**

This layer deals with Models and the Modelling structure. Ontology defined as part of the conceptual structuring layer can be validated and represented globally by using models and taxonomical interaction between models represented through modelling structure. Hence models can be seen as a simplification of the reality or snap view of what is perceived as reality. The latter also should be implemented for the decision making processes needed within the goals and objectives of the methodology. Jayaratna (1994) stated that models are embedded in the methodologies and their role; type and form help to determine what aspects of reality are captured and understood. In the methodology construction process, models are used to try to gain understanding, and the model’s complexity increases as we learn more about the underlying problem domain. For example in a criminal drug trafficking activity the proceeds of the operation may be linked to terrorist activities; therefore our modelling of the drug supply chain may include a clear understanding of a particular terrorist cell. Therefore a combined drug trafficking and terrorism model and modelling structure maybe needed to address the issue. The purpose of creating a model in CTCM is to help law enforcement agents understand, describe, communicate, analyse, or create scenarios with regard to a specific issue of concern.

**Notations and Communication**

In the CTCM, models and modelling structures are communicated with the user via a notation. How models and modelling structure are defined based on an epistemological view as part of the conceptual structuring, can be discussed and represented only by a notation or set of inter-related notions (see chapter 2 for example of the Odyssey project’s Gun Crime analysis notation). The combination of models, modelling structure and notations provides a communication platform in the methodology. The notations can range from formal mathematical representation (e.g. Z) to highly unstructured representation such as rich pictures. Communication standards, both formal and de facto exist in the practice of LEAs. As with any area of professional communication cultural norms and practices have developed within the day-to-day working of LEAs. This is often driven by legal requirements or by formal or de facto standards imported through the use of specific software or the market dominance of specific technologies. For example many crime analysts and investigating officers within LEAs make use of networked graph representations of the links between objects of evidence, people and locations to quickly describe findings or hypotheses. The communication strategies,
formats, notations and content used in the CTCM need to fit with the accepted and understood standards known to the methodology creators and users.

**A way forward**

The proposed framework to evaluate cyber terrorism and cyber crime case studies is an essential part of understanding the components of the threats we encounter. The use of the model will enhance LEA understanding of the challenges we face, helping to develop, design and deliver more effective counter-measures. Both cyber crime and cyber terrorism continue to provide acute security concerns, amplified by the lack of knowledge and understanding of cyber hazards by senior officials and an LEA work force that requires significant investment in training to develop a sophisticated hi-tech investigative doctrine across their full operating landscape. The culture of LEA investigations has quickly changed, organised criminals have dynamically shifted their modes of operating from committing one physical theft or robbery of 1million €, to committing 1 million thefts of 1€ each in cyber space – and LEAs are behind the curve and are now playing catch-up. The most important task for LEAs is to quickly accept an uncomfortable truth: that they cannot tackle cyber threats on their own and moving forward, the most important tool in the armoury of LEAs, shall be their ability and willingness to collaborate with academia and the private sector by sharing important data concerning their operational cyber challenges. The proposed framework to evaluate cyber terrorism and cyber crime case studies provides one such example where academia and operational practitioners bring their expertise to bear in concert one another for the unified goal of preventing cyber crimes ans making online communities safer.

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UNICRI’s Library Selection

Tiffany Bergin,
The Evidence Enigma: Correctional Boot Camps and Other Failures in Evidence-Based Policymaking, Ashgate, 2013

This book investigates the reason of the use of not evidence-based policies presenting the case study of a policy that did not work: the policy of correctional boot camps. These correctional facilities, inspired by military boot camps and typically reserved for younger offenders, rapidly spread to almost every state in the United States during the 1980s and 1990s although it was clear that they did not reduce recidivism rates, prison overcrowding and justice system costs. The author examines the cultural, economic and political factors which encouraged the spread of this policy in comparisons with other policies and his study of boot camps offers valuable insights into the diffusion and contraction of a discredited policy.

The book will be of particular interest for experts in criminology, social and public policy and sociology.

Mark Cieslik and Donald Simpson,
Key Concepts in Youth Studies, SAGE, 2013

In “Key Concepts in Youth Studies”, Mark Cieslik and Donald Simpson offer a comprehensive analysis of youth as a social phenomenon, giving explanations on relevant issues, such as how to define youth and how to understand youth in its social and cultural context or how to understand youth in a globalized perspective. This concise introduction to the interdisciplinary field of youth studies starts from the discussion of the latest research and developments in the field and the fundamental ideas underlying the discipline as a whole.

The book will be a useful tool for both tutors and students on youth studies, sociology, criminology and social science programmes.
Alan Baker,

Life Imprisonment: An Unofficial Guide can be defined as “the insider’s perspective on the major concerns of life-sentenced prisoners”. It is an explanatory handbook and survivor’s guide and describes how life imprisonment looks from inside the head of a lifer: daily preoccupations, the uncertainty about the future, the long years ahead, time for reflection, setbacks and coping mechanisms and staying out of trouble. The author, Alan Baker, describes the state of the prisons, having experienced first-hand the impact that the justice system has on someone serving a sentence with no fixed end date. The book contains also a foreword written by Tim Newell, former Prison Governor life-sentence expert.

Margaret Malloch, Gill McIvor,
Women, Punishment and Social Justice, Routledge, 2012

“Across jurisdictions, lawbreaking by women has different features from lawbreaking by men: it is less common, less frequent and less serious.” Recognizing that prison is an inappropriate response to women in conflict with the law, “Women, Punishment and Social Justice” provides a critical analysis of approaches and experiences of penal sanctions, human rights and social justice as implemented in different jurisdictions in the UK territory and abroad. Analyzing issues that affect women in within the criminal justice system (mental health, age, and ethnicity), the authors, Margaret Malloch and Gill McIvor, challenge the efficacy of gender-responsive interventions. This book will be of interest to those taking undergraduate and post-graduate courses that examine punishment, gender and justice, as well as to professional practitioners who work with women in the criminal justice system.
11 February

Naples (Italy)
Voices against crime in Naples

A new pilot project developed by UNICRI in cooperation with the Municipality of Naples, involving local NGOs and the media partners Il Mattino and Fanpage. The event aims to give voice to the victims through the collection of their stories and to make their experiences the starting point for the implementation of an awareness campaign to promote future interventions on prevention, development and assistance.

http://www.unicri.it/news/article/2014-02-11_Voices_against_crime_in

18 - 21 February

Bangkok (Thailand)
Expert group meeting on the elimination of violence against children

The United Nations Office on drugs and Crime (UNODC) is convening an Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting to develop a draft set of model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.


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Vienna (Austria)
57th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
High-Level Review of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs will conduct a high-level review of Member States’ implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on the world drug problem at its 57th session in March 2014. In March 2009, the Commission adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and will now review the achievements, challenges and priorities for further action.
4-7 March

Manila (Philippines)

Global Terrorism and CBRNE Conference

The 1st Global Terrorism and CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives) Conference will be held in the Philippines by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the private company Smart Technology.

http://www.smarttechnology.co.id/event/201403-conf-gtcbrne-philippine/

18 March

Bucharest (Romania)

SAVEmed project on counterfeit medicines

The SAVEmed (Microstructure secured and self-verifying medicines) project is funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7), in association with the Romanian authorities and UNICRI. The presentation of the newly implemented taskforce of public-private cooperation in the fight against counterfeit medicines will take place. The main goal of the project is to tackle counterfeit medicines and their related criminal networks.

http://www.unicri.it/topics/counterfeiting/medicines/savemed/

20 March

Amsterdam (Netherlands)

EU High Level Event on "International Cooperation to enhance a worldwide nuclear security culture: Contribution to the Nuclear Security Summit 2014"

Organized by the European Commission and the European External Action Service, The EU invites all its partners to debate and share views on lessons learnt as well as on future initiatives and means to strengthen nuclear security culture worldwide. A good example of the EU outreach activities is the creation of the EU CBRN Centers of Excellences (CoE) that aims at implementing a coordinated strategy for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation at the international, regional and national levels.

UNICRI is organizing a series of workshops and short courses within the framework of the UNICRI Journalism and Public Information Programme, a unique international programme tailored for journalists, chief information officers, public information professionals and students seeking a career in the world of information. The programme aims at deepening knowledge of the two most emerging security threats: Cyber Crimes and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risks.

http://www.unicri.it/in_focus/on/2013725_NewTraining

The Nuclear Security Summit 2014 is a world summit, aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism around the globe. The 2014 summit will chart the accomplishments of the past four years, identifying which of the objectives set out in the Washington Work Plan and the Seoul Communiqué have not been met and proposing ways to achieve them.


The conference on falsified medicines will constitute one of the final actions implemented within project SAVEmed (www.savemed.org), a research and innovation project financed by the European Commission and coordinated by NANO 4 U (www.nano4u.net). The conference will explore the multifaceted nature of the problem, with key presentations highlighting the involvement of organized crime, the health and social consequences caused by this phenomenon, the importance of providing a shared and comprehensive response, and the significant role that the private sector may have in supporting Governments in the implementation of their anti-counterfeiting strategies.
**2-4 April**

**Turin (Italy)**

**Project Light On**

UNICRI Training on hate crime and hate speech online.

The LIGHT ON project is funded by the European Commission under the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme. It aims to develop an original cross-community action against the modern symbolism and languages of racism and discrimination.

http://www.unicri.it/special_topics/hate_crimes/

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**9-11 April**

**Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)**

**African Regional Preparatory Meeting**

Participants in the regional preparatory meetings are expected to examine the issues to be discussed at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to make action-oriented recommendations for consideration by the Congress. The overall theme, agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress were determined by the United Nations General Assembly and the Secretary General. Agenda items include implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development.


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**29 April - 2 May**

**New Jersey (USA)**

**Substance Abuse Librarians & Information Specialists (SALIS) 36th Annual Conference**

SALIS members and other interested information professionals are invited to the Conference hosted by the Center of Alcohol Studies (CAS) at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. The event aims to review past successes and best practices in documenting and disseminating addiction research, as well as to explore opportunities to translate them into our information age. SALIS is an international non profit corporation with special interests in the exchange and dissemination of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) information.

http://salis.org/conference/conference.html