



# INTERPOL

## AGENDA

OPERATION: SEARING THE  
HYDRA'S HEADS: DISMANTLING  
THE GLOBAL HYDRA OF  
ORGANIZED CRIM



## Table of Contents

| S.No | Topic                        |
|------|------------------------------|
| 1    | Secretary-General's Message  |
| 2    | Nature of Reports & Evidence |
| 3    | Mandate                      |
| 4    | About the committee          |
| 5    | Introduction                 |
| 6    | History of the Agenda        |
| 7    | Current Situation            |
| 8    | Past Actions                 |
| 9    | Key Players                  |
| 10   | Keywords                     |
| 11   | Position Paper Policy        |
| 12   | Position Paper Policy        |
| 13   | Bibliography                 |



## Secretary-General's Message

**Dear Delegates,**

On behalf of the Welham fraternity, I warmly welcome you to the 10th edition of Welham Boys' School Model United Nations. I am Tanay, a science student from Class 12, and I have the honor of serving as the Under Secretary-General in this year's edition.

Every edition of WELMUN brings something constructive for each of us, and this year we aim to go a notch above by making a significant impact. Assisting me are Pranjal Baluni as the president, Pranay Agarwal and Kabeer Shobit Vaish as Directors, and Angad Khurana and Koustubh Gupta as the directors.

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) convenes here to address a critical and complex agenda: Operation: Searing the Hydra's Heads: Dismantling the Global Hydra of Organized Crime. Organized crime syndicates such as the Russian mafia, MS-13, Black Axe, Ndrangheta, Chinese triad, and Yakuza have evolved into sophisticated networks that transcend geographical boundaries, exploiting vulnerabilities in our interconnected world.

These transnational criminal organizations engage in a multitude of illicit activities, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms smuggling, cybercrime, and money laundering. Their operations pose significant threats to international security, stability, and the rule of law, necessitating a unified and resolute response from the global community.

Our committee's focus this year will be on dismantling these powerful syndicates. By examining the operations of these groups, we aim to develop comprehensive strategies to combat their influence and mitigate their impact on societies worldwide. The gravity of this issue requires us to prioritize collaboration, legislative reforms, capacity building, and community engagement.

As custodians of international security, it is imperative for us to address the growing menace of organized crime collectively. Recent trends indicate a concerning escalation in the activities of these criminal networks, often with the complicity of certain governments. Our task is to break down these issues and propose effective, sustainable solutions.

It is a great honor for me to serve as the Secretary-General of INTERPOL for this momentous edition of Welham Model United Nations Conference. I look forward to engaging deliberations and innovative solutions from our delegates. Together, we can rise to the challenge and confront this global threat with determination and unity.

With this, I wish you all the best for this year's edition! Warmest Regards,

**Tanay Pratap**

**Secretary General - INTERPOL [chair.interpol@welhamboys.org](mailto:chair.interpol@welhamboys.org)**



## Nature of Reports & Evidence

Evidence or proofs from the following sources will accede as credible in the committee:

### 1. News Sources:-

a) REUTERS – Any Reuters' article which clearly makes mention of the fact stated or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by another delegate in council can be used to substantiate arguments in the committee. However, Reuters reports claiming to quote any individual affiliated in any manner to any government may not necessarily reflect the views of that government in totality. For example, at times the office-holding individuals venture out for lectures, talks, discussions etc. wherein they tend to express things which are a contravention/extension of the policy they hold. So we need to take into consideration the time and space dimension of such views and also the chronology of what they spoke or what their government policy was posted and prior to this. Thus, Reuters report can be denied by any member state subject to their policy and it is only when the report is accepted by the government that it shall be admitted as persuasive proof.

b) State-operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council.

### 2. Government Reports:-

These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information.

### 3. UN Reports:-

All UN Reports are considered as credible information or evidence for the Executive Board.

Please note that under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia ([http:// www.wikipedia.org/](http://www.wikipedia.org/)) be accepted in the Council.

## Mandate

The International Criminal Police Organisation, or the INTERPOL, is an intergovernmental organisation. It plays a vital role in the global law enforcement landscape and dealing with crimes globally. It facilitates policies across a multitude of countries to initiate co operational and vital data exchange to deal with multiple crimes that affect the world crisis scenario.

INTERPOL's aim according to article 2 of its constitution are ;

(1) To ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities within the limits of the laws existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights";

(2) To establish and develop all institutions likely to contribute effectively to the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes.

With 196 member countries, INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization, headquartered in Lyon, France.



## HISTORY AND FORMATION

INTERPOL was established on September 7, 1923 after the conclusion of the International Police Congress in Vienna. It was initially named the International Criminal Police Commission or ICPC but later after World War II it was renamed to 'Interpol'.

## STRUCTURE

### i) General Assembly

It is the highest governing authority within INTERPOL responsible for making all of its major actions like policy formation and direction of the organization. It also elects members of executive members. It meets once a year for a session that lasts around 4 days.

Its functions includes:

- a) Decision Making
- b) Resolutions
- c) Elections
- d) Delegation
- e) Networking

### ii) National Central Bureaus (NCBs)

NCBs are the focal point for all INTERPOL activities within a member country. It is a Liaison between the member country's law enforcement and other countries as well as the General Secretariat. They are connected to INTERPOL's secure global police communications network, I-24/7 which allows for real life data exchange. All member countries contribute to crucial intelligence to I-24/7 for the betterment of global crime reduction plans. Each country contributes crime data adhering to their respective national laws. NCBs cooperate on cross border investigations, operations, and arrests. They also develop training programmes for national police to raise awareness.

Its functions includes:

- a) Information Exchange
- b) Database Contribute
- c) Operational Support
- d) Training
- e) Public Interaction
- f) Regional Cooperation

### iii) The Commission for the Control of Files (CCF)

CCF plays a critical role in ensuring that all personal data processed through INTERPOL's channels adheres to the organization's rules and international laws. It is an independent, impartial body



## **ABOUT THE COMMITTEE- INTERPOL**

The International Criminal Police Organisation or INTERPOL had its origins before any other United Nations' Body. What started off as a little notion on reducing crime at the International Criminal Police Congress in Monaco 1914, soon turned out to be a revolutionary necessity for global order, as witnessed after the World War I, in the Second International Criminal Police Congress in Vienna 1923, where the idea of a global criminal police organisation was revived. But it was only after adopting a proper and formulated Constitution on 13 June 1956, that INTERPOL really came into effect and force, later becoming the world's largest criminal police organisation with 195 member states and a headquarters at Lyon, France. A majority of UN members are a part of the INTERPOL including a non-member Palestine, except members of UN like the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Micronesia, Tuvalu and Palau who have been excluded from the INTERPOL.

- The aim of the INTERPOL is, as accorded by the Article 2 of the INTERPOL'S Constitution and Mandate, to promote the maximum possible amounts of police cooperation between the police forces of member states in order to eradicate cyber crimes, extremist or organised crime syndicates.
- All the actions taken by the INTERPOL must be neutral in nature and should not interfere or intervene in religious, political, military matters of a country unless at a time of war, if voted by the General Assembly at large.
- The INTERPOL must comply with member nations' legal systems if they have to conduct any operation in member nations' territories. The INTERPOL under no circumstances can carry operations that are unknown to member nations.
- All the INTERPOL operations must be in compliance with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The INTERPOL is not a global law enforcement agency. It can neither conduct investigations nor arrest or extradite individuals unless the authorities of the individual's nation agree to the INTERPOL'S conditions.
- It has the power to form institutions to tackle a particular crime.



## The STRUCTURE OF INTERPOL

### THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT -

The General Secretariat is headed by the Secretary General of the INTERPOL whose duties are to direct, approve of all major INTERPOL operations, coordinate the budget of INTERPOL and manage the permanent offices of INTERPOL. The Secretary General's term lasts for 5 years and he/she can be reappointed only once.

The General Secretariat which is the supreme body controlling all overseas INTERPOL offices and budgets operate from Lyon but have additional offices in Argentina, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire and El Salvador. Lastly, the General Secretariat's members are also eligible representatives for regional executive organisations such as in the European Union, African Union, Europol, United Nations Offices of Drugs and Crimes and Barbados of the Caribbean.

### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY -

The General Assembly is the paramount and final deciding body of the INTERPOL. The final aim of the General Assembly is to create Resolutions that direct the working of the INTERPOL. The duties of the General Assembly include but are not limited to the following-:

- Reviewing and directing INTERPOL's annual program of activities
- Reviewing INTERPOL's financial policy and budget while being presided by the General Secretariat
- Approve major operations, agreements with other organisations, global executive treaties and collaboration with member nations
- Elect the INTERPOL's Executive Committee, including the President and the Vice Presidents
- Elect the INTERPOL'S Secretary General
- Create special assemblies to combat issues and crimes persisting in our existing world

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -

The Executive Committee's functions according to the Constitution of the INTERPOL are as following-:

- Supervise the execution of the General Assembly's decisions
- Prepare the agenda for the General Assembly to discuss on
- Supervise over the Secretary General and the General Secretariat's work
- Submit any necessary project or operation to the General Assembly
- Direct and build cooperation among the members of the General Assembly

The INTERPOL's Executive Committee has 13 delegates who since 1946 have been elected democratically by the General Assembly. This includes the leader of the Executive Committee- the President, followed by 3 Vice Presidents. In case, the President is not present at a discussion, the Vice President guides the General Assembly and if none of them are present either, then the General Assembly is led by one of the remaining delegates of the Executive Committee. The President has a tenure of 4 years while each of the Vice Presidents has a tenure of 3 years. The Executive Committee must also have equal representation of members from the regions classified by INTERPOL as - Asia and South Pacific, the Americas, Europe and Africa.

**THE NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAUS (NCB) -**

These organisations consist of senior police officers in member nations who establish a direct point of contact between the police forces of member nations and the General Secretariat. The National Central Bureaus also coordinate information with other member nations in order to identify criminal activities being carried outside a country's geographical border. Lastly, one of the most crucial works of the NCBs is to issue "RED NOTICES" if needed. Red Notices are global alerts on criminal activity and existing criminals that encourage and signal countries to be on their feet for these criminals, since catching these "Red Noticed Criminals" benefits none but the INTERPOL. These "Red Noticed Criminals" ultimately become International Criminals who are sought after by various international police forces.

**THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FILES (CCF) -**

It is an independent and impartial judicial like body in the INTERPOL that ensures that collection of information in the INTERPOL occurs in a fair, unharmed and legitimate way with concerned parties and authorities being informed of the information required and collected. The CCF ensures transparency, humanitarian methods of interrogation and the legitimacy of the information obtaining process. They also obtain, add or discard information from the INTERPOL's archives.

The CCF's members include lawyers experienced in human rights, international law, information rights and criminal law.

The CCF consists of:-

The Supervisory and Advisory Chamber

The Requests Chamber, which reviews the addition, deletion or modification of existing information in the INTERPOL's archives

**THE ADVISERS -**  
The Advisers are appointed by the Executive Committee, and are consulted by the INTERPOL on scientific matters, the evidence of which can only be obtained through research and experiments conducted by experts.

**THE CONSTITUTION OF INTERPOL**

The articles stated below are essential constructs of the INTERPOL's governing and determine the crucial factors for which the committee shall rely on during its functioning:-

Article 2 -:

The INTERPOL's aims are:

- (1) To ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities within the limits of the laws existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights";
- (2) To establish and develop all institutions likely to contribute effectively to the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes.

Article 3-:

It is strictly forbidden for the Organization to undertake any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character.

Article 14-:

Decisions shall be made by a simple majority except in those cases where a two-thirds majority is required by the Constitution.

Article 16-:

The General Assembly shall elect, from among nominations put forward by the competent governmental authorities, the President and three Vice-Presidents of the Organization.





A two-thirds majority shall be required for the election of the President; should this majority not be obtained after the second ballot, a simple majority shall suffice.

The President and Vice-Presidents shall be from different continents. Article 42-:

The present Constitution of INTERPOL may be amended on the proposal of either a Member or the Executive Committee.

Any proposal for amendment to this Constitution shall be communicated by the Secretary General to Members of the Organization at least three months before submission to the General Assembly for consideration.

All amendments to this Constitution shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the Organization.

### **Introduction**

Organised crime, characterised by highly structured criminal enterprises engaged in illegal activities, poses a significant threat to global security. These criminal syndicates operate across national borders, exploiting weaknesses in legal systems and profiting from illicit markets. This comprehensive analysis delves into the origins, characteristics, and impact of organised crime, supported by relevant statistics and references. Additionally, it explores INTERPOL's efforts to combat this menace through international cooperation, intelligence sharing, and targeted operations.

Organised crime refers to complex criminal networks that systematically engage in illegal activities for financial gain. These enterprises exhibit several key features:

**Hierarchical Structure:** Organised crime groups operate under hierarchical structures, with leaders at the top exercising substantial control over members.

**Diversified Criminal Portfolio:** They engage in a wide range of criminal activities, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, extortion, money laundering, and cybercrime.

**Global Reach:** Organised crime transcends national boundaries, exploiting differences in legal systems and capitalising on global demand for illicit goods and services.

The scale of organised crime's impact is staggering. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that the global illicit drug market generates over \$400 billion annually. The International Labor Organization (ILO) reports that approximately 25 million people are victims of forced labour worldwide, with organised crime groups playing a significant role. The annual cost of cybercrime exceeds \$1 trillion, affecting individuals, businesses, and governments. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) estimates that money laundering accounts for 2–5% of global GDP.

Organised crime remains a formidable challenge, but INTERPOL's commitment to intelligence sharing, international partnerships, and targeted operations strengthens the global fight against criminal networks. As we look to the future, collaboration among National Central Bureaus (NCBs) and law enforcement agencies remains essential in safeguarding our societies from this pervasive threat.



## HISTORY

Criminal activities have been ongoing for centuries. However, the first organised criminal group emerged in the 19th century during the mafia genesis process, a product of Sicily's transition from feudalism to capitalism and unification with Italy's mainland. The Sicilian Mafia was founded by elements of the Camorra, a crime organisation established by Naples. The Camorra is an Italian mafia-type criminal organisation and the oldest and largest crime organisation in Italy, dating to the 17th century. The mafia initially began as a secret organisation dedicated to overthrowing the rule of various foreign conquerors. The mafia owed its origins to and drew its members from multiple small private armies or mafia. The rise of the central Mafia began in 1900, with the origination of various Mafia families, and groups of families based in the villages of western Sicily joined together in a loose confederation, controlling most of the economic activities in their respective localities.

### **Ndrangheta**

The 'Ndrangheta originates from Calabria, the impoverished southern region at the tip of Italy's boot. Its name is believed to come from the ancient Greek words "andros" and "agathos", meaning brave or valiant man. It expanded substantially from the 1970s onwards, when it reinvested ransom money from kidnappings - one of its main activities at the time - into public work projects and drug trafficking, especially cocaine. Ndrangheta had been operating since the mid-19th century as a "peasant" mafia, extorting, blackmailing and stealing cattle. In the 1970s, it embarked on a new activity: kidnapping people and holding them for ransom. It was after one of these cases was solved that her name became known the world over: the abduction in Rome in 1973 of 16-year-old John Paul Getty III, grandson of American oil magnate J. Paul Getty. The teenager was returned to his family after five months for 3.2 million dollars, after his severed ear was sent by post to a newspaper. This was the incident that led to their prosperity and finally gaining a name for themselves in the underworld and henceforth becoming a major drug transporter.

### **MS-13**

The MS13 was founded in the poor, marginalised neighbourhoods of Los Angeles in the 1980s. As a result of the civil wars wracking El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, refugees flooded northward. Many of them wound up in California, living among the mostly Mexican neighbourhoods of East and Central Los Angeles, as well as the San Fernando Valley. The war hardened immigrants quickly took control of this situation and organised themselves into one of the strongest competing groups called the Mara Salvatrucha Stoners or MSS. With time, the gang evolved, shedding their original Stoner name and image: The MSS became the MS. The MS13's principal activities vary a great deal from one region to another. In Central America, where the gang's reach and size was largest, the MS13's operations were more diversified. That included extortion and controlling the neighbourhood petty drug market.

### **TRIAD -**

The Triad is a word used for secret societies active during the Qing Dynasty in China 1636, as well as modern Chinese crime gangs.

Originally the Triad was a branch of the secret Heaven and Earth Society which was formed by patriotic Chinese to overthrow the oppressive Qing Dynasty. They were a revolutionary movement with underground practices and were influenced by numerology and occultism.

In the 19th century, a secret society that called themselves the Triad developed in Southern China. They



were involved in rebellions in the 1850s that threatened Shanghai and aided in the 1911 revolution. In the People's Republic of China which was formed in 1949, secret societies were suppressed during a "strike hard" campaign against organised crime. Triad groups relocated to the British colonies of Hong Kong, Taiwan and SouthEast Asia, and overseas countries. They turned to drugs and extortion to make an income and are now known as one of the toughest criminal organisations today.

Within triad groups, there is a pyramid hierarchy. It is not a strictly hierarchical design but rather based on many separate and autonomous cells. Each cell has an area boss that leads 15 to 20 core members that control a particular area through violence. They form the middle level of the Triad, with the bottom level being made up of youth and juvenile gangs. The core component of the Triad structures is a concept of Guanxi or "Brotherhood". There are strict rules within each Triad group, with members often having family relationships and even hereditary membership. If members are found violating the secrets of the Triad, they are severely and brutally punished. Punishment is carried out by a member called a "red pole" who has been trained in torture.

### **YAKUZA**

Yakuza, Japanese gangsters, members of what are formally called bōryokudan ("violence groups"), or Mafia-like criminal organisations. In Japan and elsewhere, especially in the West, the term yakuza can be used to refer to individual gangsters or criminals as well as to their organised groups and to Japanese organised crime in general. Yakuza adopt samurai-like rituals and often bear elaborate body tattoos, odd clothing, haircuts, and behaviour. They engage in extortion, blackmail, smuggling, prostitution, drug trafficking. They began to control booths at fairs and markets and developed a reputation for shoddy merchandise and deceptive salesmanship. They also played a role in Japan's gambling tradition. In the 1800's, the yakuza began to modernise, recruited members from construction and dock jobs, and even began to control the rickshaw business. Group members became involved in politics, taking sides with certain politicians and officials. They cooperated with the government so they could get official sanction or at least some freedom from the government.. According to police estimates, gang membership reached its highest level, of some 184,000, in the early 1960s. However, by the early 21st century their numbers had declined to approximately 80,000, divided roughly evenly between regular members and associates. The members are organised into hundreds of gangs, most of them affiliated under the umbrella of one of some 20 conglomerate gangs.

### **RUSSIAN MAFIA (The Solntsevskaya Bratva) -**

The Russian Mafia, also known as the Red Mafia, the Redfellas, or the Bratva is a collective of various loosely-associated organised crime syndicates from the former Soviet Union, formed in the 1960s and 1970s. The Mafia originated in 1953, when 8,000,000 criminals were released from Stalinist labour camps after Joseph Stalin's death; many of these were members of the "thieves in law" in the prison system. Now that they were released into society, the criminals were no longer beholden to the laws of the "thieves in law", and they were free to work with the government. Under Leonid Brezhnev's government, crime bosses worked with corrupt CPSU party officials, and the criminals presided over a flourishing black market. During the 1970s, the Russian government ignored the growth of private companies, allowing for the Russian mobsters to open legitimate businesses and prosper. Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost reforms loosened restrictions on small businesses, but the Russian Mafia had already begun to conduct its shakedowns in broad daylight, extorting businessmen. The Russian Mafia became known for its violence; 1,400 people were killed in Moscow alone in 1993. The



poor economy of capitalist Russia would allow for the Russian Mafia to make lots of money, and as much as 40% of the economy of Russia was controlled by the Mafia.

### Black Axe

In Nigeria, cults are secretive organisations that operate outside of mainstream religious and societal norms. They have distinct rituals, ideologies, and hierarchies, attracting young people seeking belonging and identity. Originating in 1977 at the University of Benin, Nigeria, the Black Axe began as a group advocating for Nigerian students' welfare and rights. However, over time, the organisation underwent significant ideological shifts, embracing criminal activities and engaging in violent clashes with rival cults. Employing a hierarchical structure, secretive signs, symbols, and rituals, the Black Axe created an elusive identity that made it challenging for law enforcement agencies to infiltrate.

The Neo-Black Movement of Africa, from which the Black Axe emerged, appeared on Nigerian campuses in the Seventies as an emancipatory Black Power movement, and its anti colonial, pan-African message soon captured the imaginations of thousands of young men. Nigerian

fraternities had existed since the Fifties, but the N.B.M. founders believed such groups had descended into empty sloganeering. Inspired by America's Black Panther Party, the N.B.M. chose a more militant path. Its logo was an axe smashing the shackles of a slave, and its colours were black (for blackness), white (for peace), and yellow (for intellect).

The Black Axe wields a formidable influence over young individuals, enticing them into its ranks through initiation rites that foster a sense of belonging and commitment. Vulnerable to manipulation, young people can be coerced into participating in criminal activities on behalf of the cult.

Exploiting existing networks, the Black Axe forged alliances with "area boys" - street thugs or neighbourhood gangs prevalent in Nigerian urban areas. Collaborating with these groups, the Black Axe provides financial support, weapons, and protection in exchange for loyalty and participation in criminal activities. Area boys become foot soldiers, aiding the organisation in drug distribution, extortion, and the enforcement of its dominance over rival groups.

The Black Axe is associated with a wide range of criminal activities, including violence, extortion, drug trafficking, fraud, cybercrime, and money laundering. Acts of violence, such as assaults and murder, often stem from clashes with rival groups, fostering an atmosphere of fear and insecurity.

The Black Axe has not been immune to political influence in Nigeria. Reports and allegations suggest that politicians exploit the cult for personal gain, establishing a dangerous nexus between criminal organisations and the political sphere. By offering financial support, protection, or positions of influence within their structures, politicians perpetuate this troubling relationship. The Black Axe's criminal activities extend beyond Nigerian borders, infiltrating diaspora communities in Europe and the United States. In these regions, the organisation engages in drug trafficking, human trafficking, prostitution, fraud, cybercrime, and money laundering.

### Current situation

The crime rate in the world has gone substantially up after the 20th century. The map above shows how rotten and polluted our world is, and not only that, but the amount of crime has also increased. Even after constant efforts by INTERPOL, there have only been some major busts in the past, but the overall crime rate remains high. Organised crime has become much more popular, and many mafias have emerged. Some major mafia, like Ndrangheta, MS-13, and Yakuza, have expanded their territory



geographically and trade-wise. Human trafficking and drug trafficking have been majorly expanded, especially in Africa and Asia. Europe is the centre of all trade, as well as Africa, which has the highest crime rate. Asia is the hub of drug trafficking and human trafficking. Mafias usually opt for the Golden Crescent Triangle drug

trade route involving Africa, Asia, and Europe, increasing the criminal activities in these regions.

Not only this but there is also a substantial increase in drug trafficking in Asia. It might have helped the countries become more affluent. Still, it led to an instant boost in organised crime's influence and increased criminal activities, as well as many smaller organised crime groups turning up. Rapid Globalisation and an increase in population also led to a decrease in employment, which led to many people opting for criminal activities, making Asia and Africa a hub for criminal activities. Drug trafficking and human trafficking have become popular choices of actions.

There was also a hunger for power, succession, and money, which led to these groups becoming what they are now. Not only this but outcasts and outlaws have also joined together to form numerous groups that have increased crime percentage in these continents.

Ndrangheta, Triads, Yakuza, and MS-13 are some major groups that control these activities and have been involved for centuries. Ndrangheta and Triads are the original crime syndicates that are the roots of all these troubles and inspired many other groups. In the present day, the Ndrangheta is a loosely structured association of 100 or so organised crime groups, "cosche" or families, each of which claims sovereignty over a particular territory of Italy and have expanded their activities to Europe and many African and Asian countries. Drug trafficking and Human trafficking are some of the areas of their specialising as well as arms dealing and have caused some major events in the past, becoming a major threat in many countries. They are one of the largest mafia groups, have a major communication route, and work closely with other gangs. According to experts, the Ndrangheta made a whopping sum of 53 billion euros only through drug trafficking and money laundering. Undoubtedly, they have established successful trade agreements with South American cartels and have been accountable for 80% of the cocaine trade in Europe. The Ndrangheta forms about 3% of Italy's GDP (according to the US Government's Department of State) and has established undisputable illegal drug and arms monopolies over Europe, Canada, the United States of America, Argentina and part of Latin America like Brazil and lastly in Lebanon and Albania. Experts have identified that Ndrangheta controlled about 80% of the cocaine entering Europe from South America. They are not the only mafias operating in Italy. Sicilian mafia and Camorra are the other two mafias that have a major influence on crime activity in Italy and the surrounding regions. They have also worked and traded with Ndrangheta, influencing some parts of Ndrangheta's trade activities.

Ndrangheta is not the only mafia that has had a major influence on the world's organised crime rate. Triads play a major role in covering most of Asia, the Continent with the highest crime rate.

Triads originated a short while after Ndrangheta rose to power in the underworld far quickly. Triads, not only involved in drug trafficking and human trafficking, were also famous for ASSASSINATION. In the early ages, triads were forced to flee from their home but returned later and took advantage of the heat of the war and tension between China and its neighbouring countries, leading to an enormous rise in their power. They expanded their drug trade along with human trafficking and extortion. Not only



this, they also earned a fair amount through various gambling houses they opened up. The South China Sea is crucial to carrying out China's secret drug trafficking activities, and the Chinese foreign minister's attempt to stir up trouble in the South China Sea benefits these mafias at large. The trade through this route deeply controls money laundering and trafficking, which makes up half of Triad's revenue. Not only this, they have a major influence on the Golden Crescent Triangle trade route. They have also expanded their influence in Taiwan and South Korea, expanding their gambling centres as well as drugs and human trafficking sources.

The Black Axe is a Nigerian based criminal organisation that rose out of the Pan-African Movement across Saharan and Sub Saharan Africa ie. Throughout Northern and the Western regions of Africa. The Black axe is a confraternity of high-school students that mainly relies on violence as a tool to get their means through although they promote "equality, justice for all". The Nigerian based group uses religion as a division and arms procured through arms trade to propagate its fear with a majority of the syndicate members being no stranger to gun violence. One of the most atrocious feats of mass murder/genocide committed by the Black Axe group born out of the University of Benin was the "Obafemi Aeolowo University Massacre" where school students were openly massacred through a large scale act of gun violence.

Other areas of crime that the Black Axe expertises at would be cyber crimes such as phishing, catphishing, fraudulent emails, social media scams and online bank frauds. The Black Axe in 2021-2022 were successfully raided by INTERPOL while they were attempting to wire \$1 million out of international bank accounts. This financial fiasco could only be prevented by INTERPOL due to a collaboration between police organisations of 4 different nations in 4 different continents. They 4 respective nations' police forces identified suspicious activities, raided criminal organisations and prevented the great economic fiasco.

Lastly, MS-13 and Yakuza are also both major mafias, although not on par with Ndrangheta and Triads, and have also contributed to major criminal activities. They are major trade bases, and due to their ideal geopolitical location, they are able to conduct their activities smoothly and with much trouble. Yakuza mainly control the underworld activities in Japan and, unlike other groups, controls everything behind the scenes, being present in every activity but hiding in the shadows. They are mainly involved in underworld drug smuggling and human trafficking and have set up almost 100 million dollar trade. They not only do illegal criminal activities but also participate in the countries polity and affects the elections majorly, controlling who they want in power and what will be to their benefit, bringing the whole country under their puppet strings.

The MS-13 has 30,000 members in El Salvador alone and carries out high migrant trafficking from the Northern Triangle and Latin America to Canada and the United States of America. They have been catered to throughout the world, controlling activities from different locations, making it very beneficial and substantially increasing their economy. MS-13 achieved the feat of being "the first US street gang to be classified as a criminal". The Gang is pretty active in 42 US States, with a majority of its crime holdings and achievements belonging to the State of Columbia. The gang is the sole or primary receiver of the large-scale illegal drug trade in the United States from drug lords or drug cartels in Latin America and South America.



## DRUG TRAFFICKING

### Triads -

Chinese criminal gangs have been involved in worldwide illegal drug trade. Many triads switched from opium to heroin, produced from opium plants in the Golden Triangle, refined into heroin in China, and trafficked to North America and Europe, in the 1960s and 1970s. The most important triads active in the international heroin trade are the 14K and the Big Circle Gang. Triads smuggle chemicals from Chinese factories to North America (for the production of fentanyl and methamphetamine), and to Europe for the production of MDMA.

### Ndrangheta -

Economic activities of 'Ndrangheta include international cocaine and weapons smuggling, with Italian investigators estimating that 80% of Europe's cocaine passes through the Calabrian port of Gioia Tauro and is controlled by the 'Ndrangheta. However, according to a report by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and Europol, the Iberian Peninsula is considered the main entry point for cocaine into Europe and a gateway to the European market. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimated that in 2007 nearly ten times as much cocaine was intercepted in Spain (almost 38 MT) in comparison with Italy (almost 4 MT)

### Yakuza -

The yakuza and its affiliated gangs control drug trafficking in Japan, especially methamphetamine.[45] While many yakuza syndicates, notably the Yamaguchi-gumi, officially forbid their members from engaging in drug trafficking, some other yakuza syndicates, like the Dojin-kai, are heavily involved in it. The most common charge for yakuza and their associates arrested in 2014 was a violation of the Stimulants Control Act, which prohibits the import, export, sale, transfer, possession, and use of methamphetamine, accounting for 26.5 per cent of arrests.

### Ms-13 -

It was an historic moment for the Mara Salvatrucha (MS13). In April 2011, in the Mexican state of Michoacán, Luis Gerardo Vega, alias “Little One,” of the MS13 closed a deal with the Knights Templar, a cartel that had helped plunge that area into a near constant state of fear. Between April 3 and April 6, Little One, who was accompanied by a blood brother known as “Fast Freddy,” helped solidify a transnational drug trafficking business with the cartel’s leader, Servando Gómez Martínez, better known to the drug trafficking world as “La Tuta.”

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### Triads -

Due to poor economic conditions in China, the business of trafficking Chinese citizens into the United States has become a lucrative business for organised crime. One specific Asian crime organisation is referred to as the “Triads.” The group has successfully created cells in New York, Miami, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, and Houston (Abadinsky, 2010). Human trafficking has become the crime of choice not only because it is safer than offences such as drug trafficking but also because there is low overhead. Century-old cargo carriers are used for travel, and occupancy is triple what it should be, resulting in rancid conditions onboard vessels. Traffickers may charge as much as \$35,000 per



immigrant but only require a \$100 deposit (Logan et al., 2009). Once the person arrives in the United States, they are obligated to pay the remainder of their debt or become enslaved by the Triads, either in sweatshops or prostitution houses. Gang members threaten death or violence against them or their families if they attempt to escape.

Russian organised crime organisations -

Human trafficking, mainly for prostitution, has also become the preferred crime for the Russian mafia due to the high-profit margin. The majority of women who fall victim to trafficking are from poor economic countries such as Ukraine and Romania, which do not offer many job opportunities for young women even if they are educated (Zalisko, 2000). Women are recruited using appealing advertisements in newspapers and magazines. The advertisements promise big money and accessible housing for employment as a nanny, go-go dancer, or waitress in the United States. Many victims are assured they will meet rich men in the big city eager for marriage (Walker-Rodriguez & Hill, 2011). Victims are provided transportation and travel papers but are quickly stripped of identification once they arrive at their destination. Once the women realise they have been tricked into what some call modern-day slavery, they often fight or attempt to escape. Mafia thugs subdue the women with violence and isolation. Narcotics such as heroin and methamphetamine are given to the women routinely to get them hooked and dependent on the gang members to feed their habit. In typical mafia fashion, the mob photographs the sex slaves with clients and threatens to send the photographs to their family members if they step out of line (Abadinsky, 2010).

Black Axe-

The Black Axe is also largely involved in human trafficking with a majority of its revenues sourcing from human trafficking, forced labour, usury and prostitution. In a large scale local police operation, members of the Black Axe were arrested in January 2022 after forcing women into human trafficking. The women were forced into prostitution after doing a ritual that bonded them to their trafficker's debts. It was reported by the local authorities that they had been imprisoned, raped, blackmailed, and forced into prostitution to pay a debt of mere 15000 euros. The women were later being sold to other anonymous criminal organisations until the police interrupted the exchange.

Ms-13 -

The Mara Salvatrucha, better known by their acronym MS-13, is one of the largest and most violent transnational criminal organisations in the world. Their motto is "Kill, Rape, Control." Since the 1980s, MS-13 members have typically engaged in a wide range of violent and criminal activity including, drug distribution, murder, rape, prostitution, robbery, home invasions, immigration offenses, kidnapping, carjacking/auto thefts, and vandalism. More recently there has been a rise in MS-13 engaging in human trafficking. MS-13 is found throughout the Americas

but they traffick differently in the United States and in the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

In the United States, victims of MS-13 tend to be Latino immigrant girls or girls from the Northern Triangle countries who came into the country as unaccompanied minors. Once the unaccompanied minors are smuggled into the United States, they become prime targets for human trafficking. HHS places minors either in foster care, with family or a sponsor. The majority of unaccompanied minors end up in California, New York, Texas, and the Washington DC area that includes Maryland and Virginia—states that have large Central American populations and thus large MS-13 populations. MS-13 preys on the





vulnerability of the unaccompanied minors; some have previously suffered sexual abuse either in their home country or during the trip north; others lack a community and do not speak English. Members of MS-13 seek out the vulnerable young girls using violence and other coercive tactics to intimidate the girl into having sex for money to help financially support the gang.

MS-13 have a record for case extending from child prostitution to assassination that have had some detrimental effects on public as well as the gang. Here are some major events of their past.

1. Long Island, New York cases, 2010s
2. Child prostitution
3. Charlotte, North Carolina
4. Alejandro Enrique Ramirez Umaña
5. Terrorism charges
6. Developments in Spain
7. 2021 MacArthur Park attacks

Ndrangheta -

The 'Ndrangheta's vast network allows them to exert control over various businesses and individuals through extortion and racketeering. Refusing to comply with their demands often results in dire consequences, making it difficult for victims to seek help from law enforcement. As a criminal organization with a global presence, the 'Ndrangheta is heavily involved in human trafficking. Thousands of vulnerable individuals, often migrants seeking a better life, fall prey to their ruthless operations, enduring unimaginable hardships.

Ndrangheta - Salvatore Mancuso

An emblematic figure of the alliance between 'Ndrangheta and narcos was Salvatore Mancuso Gómez. He was a former commander of the paramilitary army of Colombia called Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC) and son of an Italian immigrant. The Galloway-Tiburón operation in 2001 revealed Mancuso to be the world leader in drug trafficking on the Colombia-Calabria route. It led to the arrest of Mancuso and his business partner, the Roman entrepreneur Giorgio Sale. The latter acted as the point person for Europe and dealt with the laundering of the profits of the cocaine trade through a network of restaurants highly renowned among the Colombian elite.

Mancuso approached 'Ndrangheta groups, proposing an alliance at the time of the paramilitaries' demobilisation after the agreements with the Colombian government. The reason for doing so was that they controlled vast areas of cocaine production, and they needed buyers. Mancuso and his associates ensured to bring cocaine to the main ports of Colombia; from there, the goods were loaded onto ships bound for Venezuela and then on to Europe.

Ndrangheta in drug trafficking was the port of Gioia Tauro. Gioia Tauro, which became operational in 1995, has always represented a perfect route for cocaine in Europe. Indeed, the 'Ndrangheta has taken control of it since its construction. The process of internationalisation of the activities of the Calabrian mafia coincided precisely with the construction and activation of the port. Over the past two decades, however, Italian law enforcement agencies have stepped up their investigations into clan activities in the port, with one last major blow to criminal networks last year. One of the foremost criminal activities of the 'Ndrangheta is the trafficking of cocaine. The 'Ndrangheta has exploited its organisational structure to establish solid partnerships with Southern American cocaine suppliers (Paoli, 1994). Several official reports maintain that the 'Ndrangheta has achieved a primary role in the Italian and international cocaine markets, outmatching other mafias, such as the Sicilian Cosa Nostra and the Neapolitan Camorra.



## Past actions

Interpol's involvement in neutralising organised crime has been a priority since its foundation. Organised crime had proven to be the most in-root dangerous crime factor considering organisation, controlled and planned co-ordination of such harmful action tends to be more damaging than any other local criminal or terrorist activities.

### Identifying Criminal Networks:

INTERPOL's Organized Crime unit collaborates with police forces globally to identify the key figures involved in transnational criminal activities and their associated networks. The ultimate goal is to shut down these criminal organisations.

### Global Strategy on Organized and Emerging Crime:

INTERPOL has developed a comprehensive strategy to combat the evolving changes in organised and emerging crime in the modern era. The strategy focuses on two main objectives: - Enabling member countries to target and disrupt transnational criminal networks.

- Identifying, analysing, and responding to emerging criminal threats.

It outlines four interconnected action areas:

- Identification of criminal networks.
- Combating illegal trafficking and illicit markets.
- Addressing enabling crimes and criminal convergence.
- Disrupting illicit flows of money and assets.

### Collaboration with Europol:

INTERPOL collaborates closely with Europol to enhance the global response against transnational crime. Initiatives include establishing secure communication lines between the two organisations and endorsing collaborative operational action plans in key security areas

### Data Management and Analysis:

INTERPOL collects and analyses criminal intelligence provided by member countries and partners. This allows for a global understanding, linking organisers, financiers, recruiters, distributors, and corrupt officials within criminal networks

### Projects and Best Practices:

INTERPOL runs specific projects targeting different types of criminal networks. These projects encourage national and international enforcement bodies to exchange operational data, best practices, and lessons learned to dismantle specific groups.

### Disrupting Criminal Profits:

INTERPOL traces and prevents the movement of criminal assets, freezes them, and facilitates their confiscation. By disrupting the profits of organised criminal networks, it weakens their operations.



## Operation I-CAN

Timeframe: 2020 - 2023

Budget: 4.8 million USD

Donor: Italian Department of Public Security

Objective :

To combat the growing Ndrangheta phenomenon by a global law enforcement approach. The project took place in about 32 countries affected by Ndranghetas influence.

These countries include:

Buenos Aires - Argentina

Paris - France

Berlin - Germany

Rio De Janeiro - Brazil

New York - US

Paraguay

Operations carried out in Italy were extensive, targeting multiple areas to control and accelerate the political and financial influence of the organisation in the country's fabric.

Reggio Calabria (Italy) -

Took use of the Rapid Responsive Teams to tackle the organisation that had association with the Archi neighbourhood since 1994 .

Rosarno (Italy) -

Operation Via network 90 bases took place in underground and hidden organisation members hideouts. The operation carried out was surgical in nature.

Port of Gioia Tauro ( Italy) -

This marks the biggest international associate of the organisation in illegal drug trade through Italy and around the world cash flow intakes. The operation's main objectives in the area was to economically deprive the organisation.

Operation Magma -

(2016 - 2020 )

Operation Magma was carried out under the I-CAN to find 6 fugitives ( suggested Red Notice members ) that were part of smuggling Cocaine through the Port of Gioia Tauro. The smuggling was carried out by fishermen using Motorboats staged for Fishing activities. Substances were reported to being smuggled to Argentina, Costa Rica and Albania.

The Triple Frontier -

The Tri Border of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay is for its scenic beauty and multiple criminal organisation activities through these waters. The Nar Su route of about 3800 kilometres to Europe is infamously known for smuggling goods to Europe. The Meeting of Iguazu and Parana rivers mark the most active area of smugglers specially the Iguazu falls. The increase in the activities in the area lead to Paraguay to join the operation to terminate the threat.

The I-CAN is built around three key pillars

Content – Building on Italy's direct experience and knowledge of the threat posed by

'Ndrangheta, its structure and how it operates.

Access – Making this vital policing information available to targeted countries in real-time, in order to pinpoint patterns, trends and potential targets for law enforcement.



Action – Coordinating joint investigations with national law enforcement agencies to identify fugitives and arrest individuals wanted in connection with ‘Ndrangheta-linked activities.

Within these pillars, the project delivers different types of practical support:

e-Learning: six modules on the I-CAN project are available through the INTERPOL Virtual Academy and the curricula of the Police Academies of the member countries.

Ad-hoc training: tailored to the specific needs of the law enforcement agencies involved.

Analytical support: through the I-CAN Criminal Analysis File – which contains details of around 55,000 entities, companies and individuals – and more than 87 analytical reports.

Specialised operational support: including linguistic expertise and coordination of operations.

The Success of the operation marked multiple arrests of influential members of the organisation. The operation made a total of 46 arrests. Some of them being :

Edgardo Greco -

arrested on 2 February 2023

Known as the Ndrangheta killer who has been on the run for 16 years. He has been sentenced to life for 2 murders and an attempted murder. The effort was made by France.

Rocco Morabito -

arrested in July 2022

Also known as Tamunga, a world leading drug trafficker. He was subject to Red Notice in 1995 and placed on Italy 30 most wanted fugitives. Was also arrested in Uruguay in 2017 but made his escape in 2019.

Operation Thunderbolt 2023

Operation Type: Joint Operation by the Hong Kong Police, Guangdong Chinese Police Forces and the Macau Police

Timeframe: June 12, 2023 to September 21, 2023

Budget: Not Known

Carried out by: The Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Region Police; Guangdong Region Police, China

Aim: Combating illegal activities of triad societies and organised crime syndicates, neutralising cross boundary crimes and interdicting the criminals' sources of income

Other Objectives: To discover, seize and freeze all Triad assets found in Hong Kong and Macau, Special Administrative Regions of China in a raid by the Police aimed at eliminating the activities of the Triads throughout China

Project's Regional Influence was over: Guangdong Province, China; Hong Kong and Macau, Special Administrative Regions of China

The Joint Operation carried out by the Hong Kong police, the Macau Police and the Guangdong Chinese Police Forces turned out to be a landmark victory of the Chinese police forces over organised crime syndicates especially the Triads and all those organisations allied to it. With the aim of neutralising and negating the dominance of organised crime syndicates in South-east China especially the Triads in Hong Kong, the operation was a net success which helped identify a nation-wide Triad channel and networks of crime syndicates.

The Operation at Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region/ Semi-Autonomous Region, China :

The Hong-Kong Police joined forces with other government departments including the Department of Immigration, the Department of Food and Environmental Hygiene, Customs and Excise Department,



the Fire Services Department to conduct searches over 3100 locations across Hong Kong. They neutralised illegal cars and vehicles, illegal premises such as gambling dens, vice establishments, unlicensed bars and loan-shark companies to find traces of any organised crime syndicates.

Finally, the Hong Kong Police seized illegally obtained assets including gambling items, weapons, proceeds of criminal activities worth \$410 Million. In Hong Kong particularly, the cash seized was a whopping sum of \$12 Million. Dangerous drugs worth \$350 million including marijuana, heroin, cocaine, cannabis, ketamine and methamphetamine were seized.

The Operation at Macau, Special Administrative Region/ Semi-Autonomous Region, China: Through statements by the Assistant to Commissioner General of the Unitary Police Service, (SPU) Luis Leong, the anti-crime Thunderbolt Operation 2023, in Macau was a joint project carried out by Macau law enforcement forces (police forces), Judiciary Police (PJ), Public Service Police (PSP), Macau Customs Services (SA), to neutralise and essentially eliminate the Triads and other organised crime syndicates, dominating influence over Macau, Special Administrative Region, China.

86000 people were investigated, out of which 4800 people in Macau were taken in for further questioning, with 1140 people being transferred to the Public Prosecution Office for further investigation after police interrogation.

At the end, out of the 1140 people, 1015 people were found to be connected with the Triads or other allied crime syndicates in some way. 674 people were involved in illegal currency exchange businesses, 219 in loan-sharking and another 120 in prostitution and human trafficking. They were all Triad Undermen or henchmen who carried out Triad Operations at the smallest of levels in Macau. 722 were sentenced to imprisonment and fined while 86 were taken into custody as declared by the Public Prosecutions Office.

During the Operation 2000 non-residents were deported from Macau for engaging in illegal activities. The Operation in Guangdong Province, China

The Guangdong Police Forces being one of the many crucial elements of the operation, supervised and investigated for criminal activities throughout the province of Guangdong and in major cities like Guangzhou and Shenzhen, in cooperation with the Provincial law enforcement civil servants, Guangdong Provincial Public Services Police Forces, Guangdong Customs and Immigrations.

The 83000 mobilised police officers and police forces kept a check on companies suspected of money laundering, tax evasions and usury; on unlicensed bars, brothels and illegal gambling rooms also suspected of money laundering, drug trafficking, human trafficking and prostitution. In conclusion, to the mega-scale operation 849 mainlanders from Guangdong, 470 non-ethnic Chinese groups were arrested and prosecuted in the Guangdong High Court. They were arrested for Triad related organised crimes such as wounding, criminal damage and vandalism, blackmailing, possession of harmful and illegal weapons, running illegal gambling businesses, drug trafficking, money laundering. Many arrested individuals claimed and asserted that they were a part of the Triad Society.



### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, the operation was a net success that eliminated the concerns of the Triads and organised crime syndicates' rising dominance over the Guangdong Province, the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions. Many individuals associated with the Triads were identified who were later useful in identifying Triad channels across China and South Korea, hence restricting the Triads to a bare minimum of organised crime. Many triad assets were seized which were worth \$410 million in total. A total of 6400 individuals were arrested out of which there were 4115 men and 2285 women. This operation undermined the Triads' sources of incomes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, gambling businesses, loan-sharking and arms dealing. It also seized all existing triad assets in South-East China and hence neutralised the influence of Triads over the Greater Bay Area (Guangdong- Hong Kong-Macau Tripartite Region Agreement).

### **Resulting Socio-Economic Developments:**

The increased cooperation between the Chinese Province of Guangdong, the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau and the police forces of the same achievement opened newer doors for economic cooperation. The Operation Thunderbolt 2023 was a minor factor along with many other such factors that helped in the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Other social developments that occurred after the operation was the establishment of a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Police Cooperation Mechanism, Collective Regional Intelligence Sharing and Case Cooperation to jointly build a social public-security and defence for the Greater Bay Area with a larger aim of providing regional security and stability to the Greater Bay Area.

### **KEY PLAYERS IN THE AGENDA**

“The Hydra is present among us. There is no room for coexistence. The only agreement that remains is the absolute destruction of this beast. Let the operation commence. -INTERPOL”

In a world, where extremism, wars, crimes against humanity have taken prevalence over fragile human sentiments, organised crime syndicates have been predominantly advancing their moves in an attempt to a worldwide expansion. But what does this crucially indicate for our global community?

Well, the answer by its own nature is very ugly. The expansion of transnational crime syndicates, terror groups and other drug cartels is detrimental towards the prosperity of any community of our globalised world. With globalisation at a rapid increase, today it has been at a near impossible extent to survive let alone thrive in solitude. It is hence imperative that each member of our global family convenes to address the escalation of crime activities which pose a significant threat to safety, prosperity and sovereignty of not only one nation but a multiple network of them.

With the world at a brink of collapse at least from a humanitarian perspective, we all need each other in some aspect or the other whether the context set in picture be of trade, polity, social and cultural development or the increasingly alarming diffusion of mafia control.

We have been divided and the only benefactors of our apathy and hatred towards each other are organised crime syndicates who illicitly evade taxes; command over human trafficking, illegal substance and drug trade; instigate community hatred and violence to gain influence over less developed but potentially explosive areas.



Hence, in conclusion to our shortcomings, the world calls for a cooperative joint discussion between delegates, law enforcement from worldwide executives and penalisation of these hydra syndicates from the global community.

With this let us look at some of these “hydra heads” that have since the beginning of the mid- twentieth century, terrorised our world through umpteenth number of gruesome atrocities.

## **NDRANGHETA**

The roots of this particular Mafia group dates back to the 19th century in the peninsular region of Southern Italy, Calabria. The mafia group has been crowned the “greatest and the largest transnational crime syndicate of the past century” after surpassing their former nemesis mafia group- Cosa Nostra. In the present day, the Ndrangheta is a loosely structured association of 100 or so organised crime groups, “cosche” or families, each of which claims sovereignty over a particular territory of Italy, without giving any legal explanation or evidence of the statement. These families are concentrated in poorer villages of Calabria, Italy such as Plati, San Luca, Locri from where 10000 members or so are affiliated with Ndrangheta. The Ndrangheta follows a horizontal sharing of power where the divisions include connections with various autonomous allied family clans known as “ndrines”. Under each ndrines follows a system of strict and regimented hierarchy- where the lowest of the tiers have to carry out their superiors’ orders unquestioned. The Reggio Calabria High Court has in the past revealed that Ndrangheta has severe differences from anarchic banditry and operates purely on honour, loyalty, secrecy, revenge and to instigate economically benefiting violence to force a move from authorities. A court in the village of Seminara, Palmi in 1897 indicated a noteworthy and distinctive feature of this group being the “omerta”- the code of silence and secrecy. Any member who reveals the innerdoings has his traces removed from the Earth.

Another structural framework of Ndrangheta associates with their “pyramid scheme framework structure” where the syndicate is guaranteed new members frequently due to the “pyramid structure of organisation”. In a pyramid organisation, existing members are incentivized or encouraged to incorporate new members and are often rewarded for good admissions. Ndrangheta out of all the mafias and organised crime syndicates has carried out such pyramid scheme of expansion frequently through the means of its members as well as through blood ties and marriages.

Although the primary objectives of this crime syndicate include drug and arms trafficking, they don’t stop at all these unlawful activities with a majority of villages’ populations being associated with Ndrangheta and carrying out or assisting in activities like money laundering, extortion, drug and arms trafficking or in community violence. According to experts, the Ndrangheta made a whopping sum of 53 billion euros only through drug trafficking and money laundering. Undoubtedly, they have established successful trade agreements with South American cartels and have been accountable for 80% of cocaine trade in Europe. The Ndrangheta forms about 3% of Italy’s GDP (according to US Government’s Department of State) and has established undisputable illegal drug and arms monopolies over Europe, Canada, the United States of America, Argentina and part of Latin America like Brazil and lastly in Lebanon and Albania. It is extremely disappointing to know that the Italian Executive has been very inefficient in locating Ndrangheta over the recent times with no firm jurisdiction or legal bind coming from either the Italian Legislatures or the Courts over Italian based organised crime syndicates (which account for 3% of Italy’s net GDP).



Experts have identified that Ndrangheta controlled about 80% of the cocaine entering Europe from South America. In 2008, it controlled 3% of Italy's GDP. Ndrangheta has spread its criminal network across Europe, the USA, Canada, the Latin America and Australia. Major busts of 'Ndrangheta associates have taken place over the last decade in Brooklyn, Lebanon and Brazil.

San Luca, a tiny village in the Italian Boot Peninsula is thought to be Ndrangheta's stronghold. According to former Ndranghetista, almost all the males of San Luca are affiliated with the syndicate and hold regular meetings in the Sanctuary of Polsi- which over the recent years has become a common spot of attraction for various shady American businessmen and mysterious tourist figures, (possibly other international followers). Here the joint discussions and achievements of the syndicate are mentioned along with their future plans.

A reliable stream of cocaine from Brazil is crucial to the 'Ndrangheta's grip on the European cocaine market, and the alliance has enabled a massive overseas expansion for the PCC through access to different markets across Africa, Europe and Asia. Ndrangheta moves through West Africa, and international and regional law enforcement investigations have implicated Ndrangheta elements in cocaine trafficking in several countries across the region, including

Senegal, Niger, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Ndrine clans operate in West Africa through the stable presence of individuals in certain countries, as well as through trusted brokers established through visits by Ndrangheta clan family members.

Ndrangheta even managed without suspicion to get its members into the parliaments of several European nations such as the Netherlands, Germany and Italy. This puts an impending and grave threat on the net European Parliament where this crime syndicate is controlling both the mafias of the Western World-USA, Canada and Latin America, as well as the mafias of the Eastern World- Russia, China and Japan. From many of its other unlawful involvements, some grave mentions would include extortion, money-laundering, tax evasions, loan sharking and drugs and arms trafficking. It has its networks spanning across various major cities of Europe with terminal trade points including but not limited to- Brussels, Milan, Turin, Berne, Geneva, Zurich, Amsterdam, London, Bratislava and Tirana.

### **THE CHINESE TRIADS**

The Triads of China developed out of the 18th century Hung society, and often worked with foreign traders to bring opium to China. In the 19th century, they operated as secret societies opposed to the harsh rule of the Qing Dynasty, regarded by many ethnic Han Chinese as Barbarian outsiders who had to be overthrown in order to bring the Ming Dynasty back. The Triads had also thrived in the warlord era of 1911 to 1940 particularly in free-wheeling Shanghai where their Gangs reached its all time peak at 100,000 members. It is also believed that the triads were one reason due to whose terror the Japanese assaulted and controlled Chinese journalists and media to their advantage by suppressing journalists who criticised the Kuomintang and the Triads. The most noteworthy mention of the Triads influence will include the toppling of the last Chinese emperor through a threat of assassination and violence. The Triads originally established their headquarters in Hong Kong and accounted for 5-10% of all crimes in Hong Kong but it was after the aggressive British Anti-Corruption Campaign that the Triads were forced to flee the region into the further South.





The Triads, at the moment, are the largest organised crime groups in China. Their roots lie in the Guangdong Province of China. Over the years, as China's foreign tensions with neighbouring countries like the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia rise, the Triads take full advantage of the gravity of the situation. Operating in the Hong Kong Underworld, in Macau and also in the heart of China's economy- Shanghai, the Triads have engaged in atrocious criminal activities, the likes of which include extortion, human trafficking and drug trafficking through maritime vessels in the South China Sea. It is of paramount importance to note that the Triads extend a large spider web over major international financial centres such as Hong Kong and Macau, exploiting their special status and proximity to mainland China to carry out smuggling and money laundering.

The South China Sea is crucial to carrying out China's secret drug trafficking activities, and the Chinese foreign minister's attempt to stir up trouble in the South China Sea benefits these mafias at large. The South China Sea being unpatrolled calls for further examination into the groups that carry out trade through it since the waters of the sea are connected to a deeply-rooted system of money laundering and trafficking.

As a global manufacturing power, China has strategically woven itself into the fabric of global organised crime. Its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, often dubbed the project of the century, has served as a crucial conduit, connecting underdeveloped nations to the inner workings of the criminal world. Over the decade, China has served as the largest financial benefactor in the Pacific Islands. Even during the pandemic, China provided massive financial aid through development projects to these countries, second only to Australia's massive support. These unsupervised channels serve as an even greater threat to INTERPOL since China, by extending an arm of diplomacy to the Pacific Islands, will make the region no stranger to political unrest and criminal activities.

Extremist groups often hiding in these small islands will be a greater force of attraction for the Triads, whose aim, in the end, is to extend its influence over nations and establish a tight hegemony over under-developed nations. In conclusion to all this, the only words that the fate of these nations will spell are "violence instigated towards the western democracies and utter destruction of these fragile ecosystems from the Triads".

Organised Crime Groups from China extend their influence not only to the South China Sea but also to their allies in the island nation of Japan and the Korean Peninsula. These allegiances manipulate the epicentre of diplomatic terrorism worldwide, from puppet mafias and allied regimes in Southeast Asia, such as the Wah Kee in Singapore and Malaysia.

The Triads have, in alliance with Korean mafias, established gambling monopolies over South Korea. One might ask why the same couldn't be said for mainland China. The answer is simply the shrewd tactics of these groups. Only international forces are allowed to establish gambling centres in East Asia since gambling among citizens of China, Taiwan, and South Korea is illegal. Hence, to make more shameless money, Koreans and Taiwanese travel to China to try their luck on gambling, while the Chinese travel to South Korea for the same. This has allowed these Chinese mafias to expand their control over the entirety of East Asia by simply opening up casino chains across East Asia. It is said that money



laundering is carried out very frequently through these casinos.

Lastly, the final threat to Asian security and stability is China's increasing obsession with Taiwan. This unhealthy obsession with Taiwan's territory often, at times, brings the most surprising of conclusions. The Chinese Triads, through several rendezvous talks with Taiwanese mafias, have expanded their businesses into Taiwan as well. It is an alarming security concern and breach of security on Taiwan's side- the island nation which has several United States military bases in its vicinity and close proximity. Hence, it is imperative and of paramount importance to control this syndicates' operation in South East and East Asia with the best and fruitful results being its total eradication in the region since it possesses a massive threat to community security along with China's predominantly haphazard territorial expansion.

## **THE YAKUZA**

The thriving island nation of Japan, has been renowned across contemporary media for its vibrant culture, open trade based economy and a potential geopolitical point. But there lurks many desolate areas even in the isolated coasts of the nation. Bordering South Korea and China it is at risk of various turbulences, those which arise often from organised crime groups and mafias such as the triads who roam even the cityscapes of Tokyo. But even these little disturbances cannot match the threat lurking beneath- the underworld of Yakuza.

Yakuza or "japanese gangsters" previously reckoned by the name of "boryokudan" or "violence groups" often move in public, carrying out grotesque tattoo bearings, samurai demonstrations and bags of money whose origins are suspected to be illegal most of the time.

The Origins of the Yakuza date back to the Meiji Period of Japan where the old Edo, not much alike to what it is today, had a prevalent caste system. The Yakuza was the eventual convergence or confluence of two distinct japanese outcast groups, firstly the "tekiyans" or "poor peddlers" or the chaotic "bakuto" or gamblers or sumo wrestlers. The Yakuza even in the context of modern-day give preferential admission to minority ethnic groups or marginalised groups such as the Korean ethnic minority.

The Yakuza is not a unitary group and has been divided on ideologies through history- one, a group that coexists with law or "ninkyos" and second, a violence and bloodshed believing group. Although the "ninkyos" methods remain questionable and objectionable they have been known to make various generous donations such as those in the Kobe Earthquake of 1995 and the Tokyo Tsunami of 2011. The split persists even today and shows two very different pictures of the world- ie. "mafias that partially follow and carry activities in accordance with the law mainly to tackle foreign organised crime groups such as the Triads". The "ninkyos" as many people believe are one major reason due to which various druglords and crime syndicates like Camorra or Ndrangheta have not directly been engaged with Japan.

However there still exists an unlawful Yakuza, and despite authorities cracking down on countering their economic flow of money, the Yakuza survive mainly through illegal gambling businesses in Japan. There exists in East Asian Countries, laws that permit gambling only to foreigners and not the citizens (to attract a side foreign profit). However, other than many Koreans and Chinese gamblers, the Yakuza's influence also compels deft-faulting Japanese citizens to bet and gamble, much to authorities dismay. The modern-day Yakuza is also fairly involved in economic criminal activities such as drug



trafficking, where drug-trafficking is easily carried out through the Pacific Ocean-Pacific Islands and Sea of Japan route- a million dollar illegal smuggling of methamphetamine and marijuana. They are not extremely involved in arms trade mainly due to Japan's pacifist nature, where too many arms passing through tariff barriers can arouse suspicion and inevitably arrest from authorities.

However much to government approval and appreciation, Japan through the virtue of its citizens, socio-economic developments has seen decreasing memberships in the Yakuza who from a member count of 180,000 in 1984 have reached a rock bottom of a mere controlled agency of 10,000. Majority of the members' average age in the Yakuza is 54 years, making it a fairly old concept, unpopular among the newer generation.

But even after such great ordeals of shortcomings, the Yakuza frequently engage in criminal activities like extortions, prostitutions, gambling, money laundering, day-labour contracting, smuggling arms and explosives into peaceful and pacifist Japan. The Pandemic had presented a positive outlook to the Yakuza who even after lockdowns could easily manipulate and control smuggled resources and human trafficking which led to their further advances in establishing contact with the Chinese Triads. The syndicate has further been involved in exploiting vulnerable communities especially women through prostitution in the sex industries or human trafficking to satisfy the desires of patriarchal society. Similar to the Italian mafias, the Yakuza functions in a strict regimentation of a hierarchy- one which is closely reminiscent of familial connections and affiliations established mostly through marriages or pyramid schemes. The followers (victims of the Pyramid scheme) "kobun" generally take a blood oath of loyalty, allegiance, secrecy and silence. Anyone who violates the blood oath must pay in penance through a ritual which involves the cutting of the little finger. Yakuza are viewed by some Japanese as a necessary evil, in light of their chivalrous facade, and the organisational nature of their crime is sometimes viewed as a deterrent to impulsive individual street crime. It is in part because of the dual nature of their relationship with police—as both criminals and sometimes humanitarians.

However the major concerns with the Yakuza rise not in their illegal, unlawful economic activities or social discrepancies but in the matters of Japanese politics. The involvement of these organised crime syndicates such as the Yakuza in polity especially during Japanese elections have led many critics to question the legitimacy of Japanese politics, the extent of freedom and blatant associations that politicians are willing to bear. This puts a dark shadow on Japan's democracy where the Yakuza hold a predominant influence over democratic institutions such as the members being elected into the Diet (the Japanese Legislature) or in the executive potentially having been bribed through large sums of money. This also raises numerous question marks on Japanese ethics and their moral work culture. Many questions on corruption have been raised in the Japanese Diet, with a necessary need of ratifying transparency and anti-corruption laws.

A common trend has been visible in recent Japanese elections lately, where various members of the Diet and political parties have received funding from the Yakuza in exchange of legal benefits that extend to the syndicate being able to carry out its activities both covertly without authorities at its tails and openly in the daylight. Such was not the case during Japan's longest-serving Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe's political dominance. Abe's party always swept through a clear majority in all elections however posthumus to the politician's demise, it has been evident that in an effort to secure funding Japanese politicians are willing to go at any lengths, even if it means broad and unspoken cooperation with the Yakuza.



## THE AMERICAN MAFIA GROUP MS-13

The Mara Salvatrucha or MS-13, is perhaps one of the most notorious and misleading gangs of Latin America. While coming from humble refugee community origins of 1980 Los Angeles, the joint community soon translated and assumed the forms of “one of the most atrocious forms of organised crime syndicates”. Originally set up to protect Salvadorans and refugees from white oppression, this gang has long derailed from its pious and sincere original beliefs. The MS-13 Gang now commands over a majority of subordinate gangs or puppet regimes throughout Central America, ie. New Mexico, Guatemala, Jamaica, Cuba, Costa Rica, Panama and Latin America, ie. Venezuela, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, El Salvador and Honduras. Out of many of its unlawful activities certain include thefts and robberies, extortions, drug trafficking, gun violence and kidnapping for ransom.

The MS-13's criminal activities opened doors to the Northern Triangle, incorporating places like El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The Northern Triangle outside warzones is one of the most terrorised and violent places on our planet. Here gun violence has become a common day event. The US Government says that the gang leaves room for 70,000 members and more in the chart of organised crime. It has also been concluded that the proliferation of such gangs has led to a rise in murder rates. The MS-13 has 30,000 members in El Salvador alone and carries out high migrants trafficking from the Northern Triangle and Latin America to Canada and the United States of America.

The United States Department of Treasury categorised the group as a “transnational criminal organisation”. With this MS-13, achieved the feat of being “the first US street gang to be classified as a criminal”. The Gang is pretty active in 42 US States with a majority of its crime holdings and achievements belonging to the State of Columbia. The gang is the sole or primary receiver of large scale illegal drug trade in the United States from drug lords or drug cartels in Latin America, South America. The MS-13 has also in the past successfully established connections with many South American Drug Dealing Cartels classified as “organised crime groups' ' such as the PCC from Brazil, Sinaloa Cartel CJNG of Mexico. This group receives a regular shipment of about USD 61 million worth cocaine from Latin American cartels, acting as one of Latin America's close and trusted customers.

Descriptions of the gang MS-13 from the US government suggest that the Gang is highly capable of communal violence with a major stake at net United States' gun violence. Most of the gang, comprises old to middle aged immigrants and refugees who engage in all these illegal activities, often creating a bad picture of all refugees and immigrants in peoples' minds.

The United States' government remains proactive and extremely crucial in finishing and cutting all severe ends of this particular hydra, leaving no loose end remaining. The United States' Jurisdiction has clearly segregated MS-13 members into refugees and illegal immigrants out of which the latter comprises 74% of gang members- depicting the shortcomings of US Border Patrol. On February 9th 2019, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 13733 and declared as his aim to eradicate all threats to the American people. Since then global cooperation with Mexico, Canada and Europe has helped the United States of America locate 50 transnational criminal organisations and undermine these wicked organisations in coordination with the legal authorities of El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras (collectively known as Joint Task Force Vulkan or JTFV).



However as highlighted by the UNODC previous reports and the UNODC's Chart of Globalisation and Diffusion of drug trades and crimes, MS-13 has also appeared in countless parts of Europe away from the Northern Circle. Other defeats of the US Executive and the JTFv are that Salvadoran MS-13 leaders are thought to be taking refuge in Mexico, where the MS-13 gang performs one of its greatest drug trafficking programs known as "the Mexico Program". With such shortcomings in global executives' cooperation, it is essentially important for the entirety of INTERPOL in collaborating together to address the alarming concerns of mafias taking refuge in the underworld.

### **The Solntsevskaya Bratva**

The Solntsevskaya Organized Crime Group, also known as the Solntsevskaya Bratva or the Solntsevskaya Brotherhood, is a powerful Russian criminal syndicate. Tracing its origins back to the late 1980s, this organisation has risen to become one of the largest and most influential criminal groups worldwide.

### **Founding and Leadership**

The Solntsevskaya gang was founded by Sergei Mikhailov, a former waiter who had previously been imprisoned for fraud. Operating out of the Solntsevo District in Moscow, the gang recruited local unemployed and aggressive young men to serve as its foot soldiers. They also established connections with established criminals, including the influential thief-in-law Dzhemal Khachidze.

#### **Strategic Location**

The Solntsevo District's proximity to key transportation hubs, such as the M3 highway to Ukraine, the Moscow ring road (MKAD), and Vnukovo International Airport, allowed the gang to infiltrate the lucrative car import business. Controlling these critical transport routes became crucial to their operations.

### **Gang Wars and Alliances**

In the early 1990s, Solntsevskaya's dominance faced challenges from the Chechen mafia. To counter this threat, the Solntsevo group forged an alliance with the Orekhovskaya gang and other Slavic criminal organisations. Together, they engaged in a violent gang war against the Chechens, resulting in casualties on both sides.

### **Post-Soviet Expansion and Influence**

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Solntsevskaya Bratva capitalized on the ensuing chaos. They established relationships with politicians, enabling them to influence the Russian state. The gang diversified its portfolio by acquiring legitimate businesses, including banks, casinos, and even Vnukovo airport. They also laundered money through their association with the criminal mastermind Semion Mogilevich.

### **Multifaceted Criminal Portfolio**

The Solntsevskaya Bratva engages in a wide range of criminal activities, including racketeering, extortion, illegal gambling, arms trafficking, human trafficking, prostitution, drug trafficking, robbery, arson, bribery, money laundering, fraud, murder, assault, and kidnapping.



### Global Reach

The organization's criminal operations extend beyond Russia, with activities in countries such as Ukraine, Hungary, Denmark, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, the United States, Israel, the United Kingdom, France, Spain, South Africa, Canada, and other parts of Europe, Africa, and Australia.

### Empowering Through Chaos

The post-Soviet era allowed the Solntsevskaya Bratva to consolidate power. They acquired legitimate businesses, infiltrated political circles, and influenced state policies to their advantage. Links to Semion Mogilevich

The gang had ties to Semion Mogilevich, a notorious criminal figure. However, a 1995 party in Prague, attended by Sergei Mikhailov and Uzbek drug trafficker Gafur Rakhimov, was raided by Czech police, who had received information that they planned to kill Mogilevich following a dispute. Mogilevich, however, managed to escape before the raid.

### Fortune and Revenue

Fortune Magazine ranks the Solntsevskaya Bratva as the largest organized crime group globally, with revenue surpassing that of the Japanese Yakuza and the Mexican Sinaloa cartel.

### Global Operations

The gang's criminal reach extends to the Caribbean, Latin America, and Mexico, further expanding its influence and criminal activities.

As law enforcement agencies continue their efforts to dismantle criminal networks, the Solntsevskaya Bratva remains a complex and elusive adversary.

### THE NIGERIAN MAFIA BLACK AXE

The Black Axe, like many other criminal organisations had a humble origin but the persistence of violence as a tool to bring about a revolution in Nigerian Society and in a greater Saharan and sub-saharan Africa is what became the sole reason for the classification of this protestant group, as a criminal organisation or organised crime syndicate.

The Black Axe was an organised protest organisation that aimed to fight the perils of oppression and insurgency during the 1980s. However being a confraternity of high-school students, this groups' means heavily relied on violence to enforce a fear in Nigerian citizens. The fear slowly spread through the neighbouring countries to Nigeria, until it dominated over scattered regions across Saharan Africa and Northern Africa.

Having a demographic advantage over the rest of Africa, Nigeria's population is mainly young and students constitute a major chunk of the demographic index. In 1977, in Nigeria, this same sector of primarily high school students formed a collective student crime syndicate group at the University of Benin. This was the organised crime syndicate, Black Axe's infancy. It would only be decades later that the true potential of this crime syndicate would be brought to light.

Despite extensive media coverage, there is little information on the structure of this organised crime syndicate. However certain facts are unanimously accepted by a majority of anti-crime syndicates across the world including INTERPOL about the Black Axe. The Black Axe has a hierarchical structure with most of its membership being granted to educated high-school, college or working males.

“The National Head” of the group is the supreme control over the syndicate and coordinates the routine



work of this syndicate with updates on all major developments, reaching the ears of this entity. They are the face of the “Black Axe”.

“The Chief Priest” controls and publishes all information on the developments of cultural, religious and racial frontiers in the organisation. This helps this criminal syndicate to take advantage of the demographic change throughout North-Western Africa.

“The National Executive Council of the Black Axe” is mainly responsible for work relating to intelligence. They are further subdivided into “eyes” or spies who keep a lookout for police and INTERPOL work throughout North-Western Africa; “the butchers” main objectives in the syndicate is to make contact with other organised crime organisations and enforce law in the Black Axe, keeping members in line; and lastly there are the “criers” who maintain the Black Axe website, publish information and recruit new members.

Although the ideology of this group is very conflicting and contradicting their actions, this organised crime syndicate still propagates their violent means in sugar coated words like “social equality and justice for all” blending old- Nigerian religion with anti-colonial activism. The syndicate also claims that they are activists who do not promote or propagate for violence but their actions are contrary to their words. This group has previously also claimed that they “don’t kill the innocent and even if they do kill, they only do it in the name of justice and liberation from sins”. The group’s struggles from a “Pan-African Movement” turned into a terrible sin of murder, killing and evil.

The most notable of this crime syndicate’s atrocities include the “Obafemi Awolowo University Massacre”. In this gruesome and terrible event, on 10 July 1999, occurred a mass murder or genocide of students, staff and people of the Obafemi Awolowo University- one of the major universities in Nigeria. This was followed by gun violence, and a systematic approach to human trafficking and drug trafficking all throughout Nigeria. The Nigerian based mafia group is also involved in a variety of illegal activities especially on the Internet such as email scams, romance scams, phishing, social media scams and catfishing (all of which are punishable cyber crimes). The INTERPOL in 2021-2022 arrested 75 Black Axe members spanning over “4 countries in 4 different continents” which were aiming to wire one million dollars over various bank accounts. However the suspicious activities being recorded by SWIFT and INTERPOL allowed for an immediate arrest operation which turned out to be a major failure on the Black Axe’s part, ultimately and inevitably resulting in the organisation’s downfall in cyber-crime related affairs. Other crimes from this syndicate would include fraudulent online operations, money laundering, tax evasions, human trafficking and drug trafficking.

With all these organised crime syndicates’ activities rising across our world, the INTERPOL suspects a global network of criminal organisations working throughout major regions of our world, disrupting peace, trade and cooperation between the people, governments and trade organisations. Hence, the INTERPOL calls for a committee discussion between delegates, with aims of “severing the heads of the hydra of global crime” through collaboration and discussions between delegates.



## **KEY TERMS RELATING TO THE AGENDA**

### **ORGANISED CRIME SYNDICATES:**

It refers to any organisation and association, who either acting unitarily or collectively, as a syndicate or a gang engage and indulge in criminal activities and illegal businesses on the regional, national or international scale. Examples out of many of their activities would include loan sharking ie. usury, drug and substance trafficking, human trafficking, running illegal gambling centres, money laundering, tax evasions, extortions, kidnapping for ransom, cargo theft, robberies and instigating community violence.

### **Extortion:**

It is the practice of obtaining any resources particularly money through means of violence, force or threats against an individual or groups and associations.

### **Usury (loan sharking):**

It is the practice of lending resources particularly loans of money at high costs or extremely high rates of interest in the assumption that the debtor will either default at his loan and could in the future be obliged forcefully to return his money through service to the criminal group or the debtor will return his loan with high interest.

### **Trafficking:**

It is the unlawful act of transporting or coercing substances or people, to benefit from the service provided by the substance and the people (usually bonded labour and sexual exploitation) in a chain event of a million dollar illegal industry. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) has under its "United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crimes Protocol" has classified human trafficking as an act undermining the rights, freedom, dignity of citizens along with an act undermining the security and sovereignty of a central government authority. The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 has declared drug trafficking as a global illicit trade and in violation to financial trading rule of law.

### **Money Laundering:**

It refers to the concealment of the origins of illegally obtained money, typically by means of transfers of money to foreign banks or legitimate businesses, so as to disrupt the access to the illegally obtained money by local authorities. The International Monetary Fund's Anti-Money Laundering (AML) policy incorporates laws, authorities and jurisdiction that classify money laundering as an internationally criminal offence and disruptive to global fiscal trade.

### **Tax Evasions:**

It is the act by citizens of evading or avoiding taxes through illegal non-payment or underpayment of taxes, which are an essential revenue for the functioning of any government. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in a joint statement, "Tax Policy Assessment Framework" (TFAF) have declared tax evasions as barriers to fiscal transparency and economic growth, hence as punishable by law with comparison to the degree of tax evasion.

### **Terrorism Financing:**





It refers to funding or financing any act of terrorism or extremism by funding terrorist or extremist groups through any means, most of the time through illegal means. This act exploits the vulnerabilities of financial systems that allow for anonymity and opacity of money transfers. The International Monetary Fund's, Combating Financing of Terrorism (CFT) policy, classifies Terrorism Financing as one of the highest of financial criminal offences and declares it highly punishable by International law and penalizable by authorities.

### **Mafia:**

It refers to an internationally organised hidden sinister body of criminals operating originally in Sicily and now in majority of developed countries with their influence spanning to underdeveloped countries

#### Discussing Questions

1. What action has your agency in particular taken to resolve the agenda at hand and how does it tackle the global and as well as local threats regarding International and national aids ?
2. What plan of action does the representative propose to tackle organised crime as a whole and other crimes disregarding the involvement of organised crime organisations ?
3. What action did the agency take in corporations with interpol or with the involvement of international bodies if any to tackle organised crime ?
4. What does the agency propose to improve the functioning of interpol and all together the global police network and connections ?

### **Position Paper Policy**

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is a brief overview of a country's stance on the topics being discussed by a particular committee. Though there is no specific format the position paper must follow, it should include a description of the positions your country holds on the issues on the agenda, relevant actions that your country has taken, and potential solutions that your country would support. Each position paper should not exceed one page, and should all be combined into a single document per delegate. Example given below.

### **POSITION PAPER**

VALENCIA INTERPOL According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), art theft from cultural institutions is the third-largest interstate illegal trade behind illicit drug and weapons trafficking.<sup>3</sup> As a means to define and establish a basic structure for prosecuting transnational organized crimes, including art theft, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime passed Resolution 55/25 during the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto in 2003.<sup>10</sup> The Resolution indicates that the acquisition, possession or use of property, knowing, at the time of receipt, that such property is the proceeds of crime, is subject to legal action by the party the property was stolen from. Additionally, The United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization established the Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws to assist national governments in developing and enhancing national legislation to protect cultural heritage and regulate the art market by monitoring the status of all art within the state.<sup>8</sup> The Stolen Works of Art Database was made public by INTERPOL in 2009 to primarily avoid accepting stolen artwork as a means of collateral from national banks.

6 INTERPOL has identified that the most common mode of art theft is through breaking and entering



into collections held by cultural institutions.<sup>4</sup> Many of these institutions do not have the proper technology used to alert local authorities within a reasonable time, most of which are dependant upon auditory warnings and are not synced to surveillance cameras, light systems, and/ or virtual monitoring by a surveillance company. As visitor participation is of major concern when considering anti-theft protocols, museums are often hesitant to place works of art in plexiglass or bullet-proof casing as to not infringe upon an authentic museum experience. In doing so, these works of art are more susceptible to either being cut out of their frames or removed without the authorization of assigned personnel.<sup>8</sup> It is estimated that only 5%-15% of art is recovered when being trafficked between borders and it is further believed that the majority is sold to American elites.<sup>10</sup> To combat this, investigative units often monitor known American art elitist and institute private tip lines in the case of a sighting. Theft by museum employees has also produced greater difficulty in identifying potential suspects and instituting an effective security system as its integrity is at risk of compromise.<sup>7</sup> Currently, only select museums utilize biometric technology as a means to establish a person's identity based on chemical, behavioral, or physical attributes, allowing specific personnel to remove the artwork. The widespread implementation of this technology, in addition to the use of a plexiglass exterior, would lower the risk of employee tampering and give authorization to a team designed to safely remove the artwork. Institutions that do not currently have a security system in place that gives visual imagery and connection to a local surveillance company is suggested to do so or else risk having little to no evidence used to retrieve stolen pieces. A comprehensive security plan must be combined with further personal training that clearly establishes operational procedure to increase the likelihood that the artwork will be found before exiting the city/state. In the case that the artwork is expected to have left the state, local authorities are recommended to alert their bordering countries to scan vehicles passing between borders for a time period of about a week. Additionally, well-known art elitist of these bordering countries should be monitored until confirmed innocent by the assigned investigative unit. Works Cited:

### **Formatting**

Position papers should include: the name of the delegate, his/her country, the committee along with the agenda — · Be in a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman) with a 12-point font size and 1-inch document margins Once your position paper is complete, please save the file as your country and position paper and send it as an attachment in an email, to your committee's email address, with the subject heading as your country name and position paper. ( File should be saved as: country\_positionpaper)

The subject of the mail should be : Country - Position Paper. Your position papers should be combined into a single PDF or Word document file; position papers submitted in another format will not be accepted. Each position paper will be manually reviewed. The email address for this committee is chair. [interpol@welhamboys.org](mailto:interpol@welhamboys.org) .

### **Documentation**

Documentation will play a major role in the marking of delegates, as any crisis management will primarily be done through communiques and directives. The delegates may send in pre-committee communiques if they wish to wherein they explain their plan of action. Always keep in consideration that to take an action on any matter regarding someone, the consent of the particular portfolio is required so make sure that you lobby accordingly.

### **Communiques**



Communiqués are of two types: private and public, without any particular format. Private communiqués may be jointly or singularly authored by portfolios who wish to take an action. The actions taken through private communiqués will not be read out to the committee and the result of the communiqué may come up as a crisis for the rest of the committee. Private communiqués can be orders that one delegate gives to the other in order to carry out the operation. Public communiqués are sent by a delegate to the rest of the committee wherein the proposed plan of action is read out to the whole committee. ATTN: Nouri Abusahmain, President of Libya Dear Mr. Abusahmain, It has come to the attention of the United States Government that two of our nationals have been kidnapped and are being held hostage by the Al Qaeda terrorist organization.

There are 3 types of communiqués :

### **Directives**

Directives are a plan of actions that will be voted upon by the committee. A directive is a powerful piece of documentation that has the power to take actions. In order to solve the crisis, delegates will be expected to pass directives in short notice of time to prevent further crises from taking place. Since directives are actions that are always put into effect, make sure that these directives are detailed and have the ability to make the plan successful. Directives also do not have any particular format but must be given a name, must have authors and sponsors that are decided by the chairperson.

### **Directive**

After our recent victory in Budapest, the city shall be searched and swept by the Reichspolizei (Imperial Police) to imprison all traitorous nobles. The main revolutionaries – Deak and Kossuth – will be on the top of the wanted persons list. Their capture is of vital importance. A bounty of 20,000 Reichsmarks from the interior budget is placed for this.



## Bibliography

INTERPOL | the International Criminal Police Organization. [www.interpol.int/en](http://www.interpol.int/en).

“The Organized Crime Index.” The Organized Crime Index | ENACT, [ocindex.net/](http://ocindex.net/). Accessed 23 May 2024.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Organized Crime | Definition, History Characteristics, and Facts.” Encyclopaedia Britannica, 21 May 2024, [www.britannica.com/topic/organized-crime](http://www.britannica.com/topic/organized-crime).

Fromiti. Organized Crime Module 1 Key Issues: Defining Organized Crime. [www.unodc.org/e4j/zh/organized-crime/module-1/key-issues/defining-organized-crime.html](http://www.unodc.org/e4j/zh/organized-crime/module-1/key-issues/defining-organized-crime.html).

Brian Fitzpatrick (OCCRP), Robert Cribb (Toronto Star), Jared Ferrie (OCCRP), Alessia Candito (la Repubblica), and Alessia Cerantola (OCCRP/Investigate Europe). “‘You’re Never Too Busy for Your Banker’: How Italy’s ‘Ndrangheta Mafia Allegedly Infiltrated Canadian Banks - OCCRP.” OCCRP, [www.occrp.org/en/investigations/youre-never-too-busy-for-your-banker-how-italys-ndra-gheta-mafia-allegedly-infiltrated-canadian-banks](http://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/youre-never-too-busy-for-your-banker-how-italys-ndra-gheta-mafia-allegedly-infiltrated-canadian-banks).

KareninCalabria. “The ‘Ndrangheta.” Calabria: The Other Italy, 19 Dec. 2019, [www.calabriatheotheritaly.com/the-ndrangheta](http://www.calabriatheotheritaly.com/the-ndrangheta).

Eye, By Africa. The Ultra-violent Cult That Became a Global Mafia. 13 Dec. 2021, [www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-59614595](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-59614595).

Yakuza: Past and Present | Office of Justice Programs  
[ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/yakuza-past-and-present](http://ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/yakuza-past-and-present).

Crime, InSight, and InSight Crime. “MS13.” InSight Crime, 28 Feb. 2024, [insightcrime.org/el-salvador-organized-crime-news/mara-salvatrucha-ms-13-profile](http://insightcrime.org/el-salvador-organized-crime-news/mara-salvatrucha-ms-13-profile).

“Art Theft.” FBI, FBI, 30 Jan. 2019, [www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/art-theft](http://www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/art-theft). Brown, Jean.

“What Museums Must Do to Ensure Art Is Protected.” The Conversation, The Conversation, 16 Nov. 2018, [theconversation.com/what-museums-must-do-to-ensure-art-is-protected-46646](http://theconversation.com/what-museums-must-do-to-ensure-art-is-protected-46646).

Feinberg, Susan. “Preventing Art Theft.” Electrical Contractor Magazine, 2008, [www.ecmag.com/section/miscellaneous/preventing-art-theft](http://www.ecmag.com/section/miscellaneous/preventing-art-theft).

“Frequently Asked Questions.” N2018-092 / 2018 / News / News and Media / Internet / Home - INTERPOL, 'International Criminal Police Organization, [www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Works-of-art/Frequently-asked-questions](http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Works-of-art/Frequently-asked-questions).

“History.” N2018-092 / 2018 / News / News and Media / Internet / Home - INTERPOL, [www.interpol.int/About-INTERPOL/History](http://www.interpol.int/About-INTERPOL/History).

“How Do You Make Money Off Stolen Art?” Priceonomics, 21 Nov. 2013, [priceonomics.com/how-do-you-make-money-off-stolen-art/](http://priceonomics.com/how-do-you-make-money-off-stolen-art/).

Milmo, Cahal. “Museums 'Are Spending Too Little to Prevent Artefacts Being Stolen from Their Collections'.” The Independent, Independent Digital News and Media, 1 Mar. 2016, [www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/museums-spending-too-little-to-prevent-artefacts-being-stolen-from-their-collections-expert-warns-a6905791.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/museums-spending-too-little-to-prevent-artefacts-being-stolen-from-their-collections-expert-warns-a6905791.html).



Tarmy , James. “Fine Art Theft Is Relatively Easy - but Selling Stolen Art Is Almost Impossible.”Insurance Journal, 26 June 2018, [www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2018/06/26/493266.htm](http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2018/06/26/493266.htm).

“UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws Updated.”UNESCO, 17 May 2018, [en.unesco.org/news/unesco-database-national-cultural-heritage-laws-updated](http://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-database-national-cultural-heritage-laws-updated).

United Nations General Assembly.A/RES/14/1386 - Declaration of the Rights of the Child - UN Documents: Gathering a Body of Global Agreements, United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2018, [www.un-documents.net/uncatoc.htm](http://www.un-documents.net/uncatoc.htm)