

TLC Seminar
November 2019
Week 3
Assignments Showcase
By Yuliya Zabyelina (John Jay College; Political Science)

Course: ICJ706 “Transnational Crime”

Assignment week: Module 4

Module theme: Criminal Mobility

Module description:

Since the end of the Cold War the argument has been that organized crime groups act like international businesses by forging international alliances and establishing branches around the world. This module covers various perspectives on criminal mobility and provides students with empirical studies on the mobility of offenders around the world. It also presents research on push and pull factors that facilitate the movement of goods, services and offenders across borders.

Learning objectives:

- Outline various theoretical perspectives on criminal mobility;
- Compare and contrast the movements of various types of criminal organizations involved in different illicit markets;
- Understand the causes (push and pull factors) that contribute to criminal mobility;
- Apply theoretical knowledge about the mobility of criminal organizations to actual criminal groups.

Formative Assignment (Discussion Board Video Presentation)

Background: Some scholars have argued that organized crime groups are very similar to business corporations. They are strategic, rational, and highly mobile, and take advantage of open borders. According to this view, criminal groups easily move to advanced market economies, where they create long-lasting outposts and form criminal alliances.

On the other hand, many other scholars argue that mafias, and organized crime groups in general, have great difficulty establishing themselves outside their territory of origin, and do not move on their own volition but are forced to migrate abroad. They have argued that criminal groups are heavily dependent on their local environment, and have identified main push factors for criminal mobility.

Assignment:

- Conduct research on the (international) mobility of a criminal group (preferably active in your country/region). Here is a list of criminal groups you may choose from:

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- Albanian organized crime groups in the US
- Georgian organized crime groups in the US
- Italian organized crime groups in Australia
- Colombian organized crime groups in Spain
- Russian organized crime groups in Spain/Cyprus
- Nigerian organized crime groups in Indonesia
- Turkish organized crime groups in Germany
- MS-13 (US-Salvador)
- Hells Angels (US; Canada; Germany or any other European country)

Feel free to choose any other group for your analysis.

- Record a video (over slides or other visual materials), in which you elaborate on your research findings regarding the criminal mobility of the criminal organization of your choice. In your presentation focus on the following aspects:
 - a. What caused the mobility of the criminal group (push factors);
 - b. Why did the criminal group choose a specific location (pull factors);
 - c. Were the conditions at destination of the criminal group favorable for successful “transplantation”? Did the criminal group run the same criminal activities as they used to do in their original location or did they have to adapt to the realities of their destination (e.g., competition from rival criminal groups; tougher law enforcement; unavailability of certain criminal markets, etc.)?
 - d. Are your findings in line with existing research? Did other scholars arrive to the same/similar findings?
- Upload your video presentation on the Module 4 Discussion Board (DB) and provide substantive comments to at least two presentations. In your comments, the expectation is that you:
 - a. In your first comment review the peer’s presentation by addressing the quality (both content: suitability of the criminal group selected; sources of data and quality of evidence provided, etc.) and format: structure of presentation; communication skills, visual materials, etc.) and suggesting avenues for improvement;
 - b. In your second comment debate of the issues/concepts/opinions presented, expressing your agreement or disagreement in whole or in part with the presented findings on criminal mobility.

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Presentation Tips

- Create your video using [Screencast-o-matic](#). (Tutorials: [Getting started with Screencast-o-matic](#) & [Uploading your video to Screencast-o-matic.com](#));
- The video must be no longer than 3 minutes (points will be taken off for longer recordings);
- When you upload your video to the DB forum, make sure you embed the file (rather than attaching it). Doing so will help all viewers to watch the video without downloading it.

Summative Assignment (Detailed Handout)

After you have posted your video on the Discussion Board, submit a detailed handout (created in a .doc file) with a full list of references.

The handout should be around 1000 words (including references). Submit this assignment as a MS Word (.doc or .docx) attachment (Times New Roman 12, single or double-spaced, 1-inch margins).

To help you understand the expectations for this assignment, please check a sample handout [here](#). Please note that you do not have to follow the sample handout blindly. You have intellectual freedom to decide what to include and what to leave out.

Be reminded that the centerpiece of your handout must be the mobility of the criminal organization of your choice and not other features. I will have to deduct points in cases of major digression from the central theme.

Grading and Evaluation

Here is the points for the assignments that you can earn:

DB video presentation

| Max. points | Weight of final grade | Due date | Evaluation criteria |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 100 | 5% | TBC | - Quality of presentation (speaking; communication clarity; visual materials; grammar and style); |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality of comments provided in response to your peer's presentation (sophistication of criticism; depth and relevance of issues raised; - The submission meets the deadline |
|--|--|--|---|

Handout

| Max. points | Weight of final grade | Due date | Evaluation criteria |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------|--|
| 100 | 10% | TBC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality of handout (organization of materials; visual materials; grammar and style) - Contents (declination from topic; quality of argument; quality of evidence/sources; - Quality of implementation of the recommendations suggested by peers. - The submission meets the deadline. |

Grade points:

93.0-100.0 = A
 90.0-92.9 = A-
 87.1-89.9 = B+
 83.0-87.0 = B
 80.0-82.9 = B-
 77.1-79.9 = C+
 73.0-77.0 = C
 70.0-72.9 = C-
 67.1-69.9 = D+
 63.0-67.0 = D
 60.0-62.9 = D-
 below 60.0 = F

SAMPLE HANDOUT

Module 4: Assignment 4

D-company

A study on mobility of one of the notorious organized criminal groups in South Asia

Organized criminal group: D-Company

Attribute in focus: Mobility

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| A. Origin and facts | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• D company had its origin in the 1970s in Mumbai, India.• Status: active across the globe.• Present headquarters: Pakistan• It is one of the largest organized crime syndicate in Asia, Middle East, and Africa.• An organized criminal group which is highly associated with terrorist groups. <p>(Sharma, 2013, p.62)</p> |
| B. Organizational Structure | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hierarchical: The D-company, like the many other traditional mafia groups, are structured in a hierarchical order of command (Zaidi, 2012).• Recruitment: Most of the initial recruitments were done from poverty-stricken houses on Mumbai. Illiteracy and poverty appear to be a common factor among all the initial recruits to D-company (Sharma, 2013). As the company extended to various other countries, the recruitments were done from different parts of the world. The Al-Qaeda and LeT-groups were also closely involved in the D-Company's drug trafficking and arms trafficking activities (Madhusoodan, 2010).• The power of command is decentralized and spread across different parts of the world. However, the top-level orders are received from the headquarters in Pakistan (Prasad, 2017). The leader of the D-company is Dawood Ibrahim. Close associates, second in line to Dawood are Chotta Shakeel and Tiger Memon (U.S Department of Treasury, 2015). |
| C. Description of the leader | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dawood Ibrahim is the leader of the D-company also known as the Don (Zaidi, 2012).• There is a reward of \$25 million on the capture of Dawood Ibrahim (Prasad, 2017).• Dawood was named as a "global terrorist" by the US and was also sanctioned by the UN Security Council for his close association with Al-Qaeda, Taliban and for various illicit weapon trade and transnational organized crimes (Rollins & Wyler, 2013, p.18; UNSC, 2016).• Dawood was widely seen in the public in Dubai and in Pakistan with Bollywood celebrities and in cricket matches. He also conducted a party at his daughter's wedding with a renowned Pakistan cricketer (Prasad, 2017; Rajadhyaksha, 2014). |
| D. Illicit activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• illicit weapon trade and terrorism• drug trafficking• match fixing• flesh trade• extortion• film piracy• contract killing• Money laundering (hawala) and currency counterfeiting |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| | (Prasad, 2017; UNSC, 2016; Sharma, 2013) |
| E. Locations | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was in 1974 Dawood and his close associates emerged as one of the most feared organized criminal groups in Mumbai (Zaidi, 2012). ○ The D-Company engaged in extortion, contract killings and smuggling while in India (Zaidi, 2012). ○ Bollywood was one of the major sources of illicit income for the D-company from the beginning (Rajadhyaksha, 2014). However, attacks on Bollywood producers and the murders of people in power led the police to plan the eradication of the D-company (Rajadhyaksha, 2014; Prasad, 2012) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dubai <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was in 1986 that Dawood shifted his location to Dubai after Mumbai police planned an encounter to murder him (Zaidi, 2012). ○ He named his house in Dubai the "White House" (Zaidi, 2012). ○ D-company saw huge progress working from Dubai. While the company's activities were limited to smuggling and extortion in Mumbai, Dubai opened up a global space for the company to increase its profit through the illicit real estate, cricket match fixing, money laundering, Bollywood and terror funding (Rajadhyaksha, 2014). ○ While in Dubai, Dawood masterminded and funded the disastrous Mumbai serial blasts of 1993, which is regarded as the first ever massive synchronized serial bomb blasts in the world where RDX was used in an urban city (Prasad, 2012). |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pakistan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After the 1993 serial bomb blasts, Dubai was perceived to be unsafe for Dawood. ○ He shifted to Karachi in Pakistan, where he was provided with economic citizenship. Researchers alleged him to have helped the Pakistan government financially and to have a very strong association with Al-Qaeda and LeT militant groups (Madhusoodan, 2010; Zaidi, 2012). ○ Proximity to Afghan-Pakistan border and association with militants helped in boosting drug and weapon trafficking activities (Zaidi, 2012; UNSC, 2016). ○ United Nations Security Council also confirmed Dawood's six addresses in Pakistan (UNSC, 2016; Dasgupta, 2017). ○ Dawood's presence in Pakistan was revealed on many occasions including the very extravagant wedding of his daughter with a world-famous Pakistan cricketer (Prasad, 2017; India Times, 2015). |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Other locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ While Dubai and Pakistan could be considered as locations where the headquarters had shifted, the criminal syndicate had its business spread across different parts of the world including UK, Nepal, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Germany, France and China (Sharma, 2013; Gosami, 2013) ○ The decentralization, hierarchy of power and globalization has helped the D company extend its operations to various parts of the world (Sharma, 2013). |

- Despite numerous security restrictions, Dawood was able to own businesses and properties in different regions including prime areas of London, UK (Dasgupta, 2017).
- The constant check of various intelligence agencies and death of many loyal D-gang members are apparently forcing Dawood to relocate his operations to Africa (Gosami, 2013).

F. Migration

– Factors influencing Migration

● Push factors

- **Safety threat:** D-company's displacement from India and later from Dubai was driven majorly by the eminent security threats from Indian law enforcement and rival gangs (Madhusoodan, 2010; Zaidi, 2012).
- **Possibilities of detention:** Fear of detention was another major factor that influenced their decision to displace (Zaidi, 2012)
- **Low opportunities:** Mumbai appeared to have provided lesser business opportunities to the D-company than the Middle East; to grow into a large transnational organization, they had to look for better opportunities (Sharma, 2013).

● Pull factors

- **Criminal ties:** one of the important factors that attracted the D-company to Pakistan was the presence of various militant groups like Taliban and Al-Qaeda. The association with these group helped them to flourish illicit drug trafficking and weapons trade (Madhusoodan, 2010; India Times 2015).
- **Increased business opportunities:** Dubai and Pakistan gave the D-company opportunities to extend their illicit trade into newer dimensions, together with globalism the D-company emerged as one of the largest organized crime syndicate in Asia, Middle East and Africa (Sharma, 2013 p.62,72)
- **Lax laws:** Lax laws in all the countries that D-company operated from has aided their illicit activities. The company has exploited the existence of lax-laws to expand illegal film piracy, match-fixing and illicit real estate businesses and so on (Zaidi, 2012).
- **Corruption:** support of the corrupt officials is evident from the inefficiency of the law enforcement in all these countries in capturing a global terrorist like Dawood Ibrahim, while he was able to appear in public and be photographed at many occasions and actively continue his criminal syndicate for past four decades.
- **Geographic location to carry out business:** The headquarters location at Karachi was most suitable for drug and weapon trafficking due to its proximity to Afghanistan (Zaidi, 2012; UNSC, 2016). It was also a strategic location to aid militant groups through weapons trade.

– Transplantation style

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic- It might be inferred from the migration pattern of the D company that they intentionally displaced their head-quarters to strategic locations which helped them with better opportunities to spread their businesses. • Emergent- The possibilities of detentions and increased risks at the original locations were also an important factor that drove them to other countries. So, the case of the D-company was both strategic and emergent transplantation. <p>(Varese, 2011; Morselli, Turcotte & Tenti, 2011; Arsovska, 2016).</p> |
| G. Limitations | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The possibility of deprivation model of explanation (Arsovska, 2016) cannot be completely disregarded in the case of the D-company. There are researchers which indicated that the existence of communal inequality, religious intolerance towards Muslims, and poverty in India, encouraged the formation of the D-company in Mumbai (Sharma, 2013). • Even though Dawood Ibrahim and associates have been active global threat for many decades, there is a significant dearth of academic literature that has researched their activities. |
| H. Policy Implications | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The long duration of presence of D-company and the vast extent of its operations makes it complicated and difficult to provide one possible explanation, however, state failure has an important role in aiding the D-company's growth. It is essential that strategic policies are developed to ensure more socio-economic and political growth in the countries. • International co-operation is inevitable for the successful tackling of the problem transnational organized crime. The international community should support developing countries financially so that they will be able to discourage the growth of organized criminal groups like the D-company. • More criminological research on the organized criminal syndicates operating in South Asia, Middle East, and other developing nations are necessary. |

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