

NARCOTERRORISM

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this article is to analyse the structure of narcoterrorism and the object targeted by criminal organizatios; and also especially the designation of 'narcostate' will be examined as a new terminolgy. Furthermore, The article will scrutinize the operational instruments of criminal organizations while pointing out common interests of drug traffickers and terrorists in order to provide a decisive perspective on the concept of narcoterrorism and evaluate the approach taken in combating the threat of narcoterrorism.Finally, the counter-measures of narcoterrorism taken by countries will be illustrated and a set of recommendations will be presented so as to offer a new insight into the countries to perform effectively against transnational crimes.

Keywords: Drug trafficking; Money laundering; Narcostates; Narcoterrorism; Terrorism; Terrorist Organizations; Transnational crime .

ÖZET

Bu makalenin yazılmasındaki amaç, narkoterörün yapısını ve suç örgütlerinin hedeflediği amacı analiz etmek ve özellikle yeni bir terim olan 'narcostate' yani narkotik ülkenin çıkış noktasını irdelemektir. Ayrıca, narkoterör kavramına belirleyici bir bakış açısı getirilebilmesi ve bu tehdite karşı verilen savaştaki yaklaşımın değerlendirilebilmesi için suç örgütlerinin faaliyetlerinde kullandıkları enstrümanlar, uyuşturucu kaçakçıları ile teröristlerin müşterek menfaatlerine dikkat çekilmek suretiyle bütün boyutlarıyla ele alınacaktır.

Son olarak, devletler tarafından narkoteröre karşı alınmış olan önlemler incelenecek ve devletlerin sınıraşan suçlarda etkin rol oynaması ve onlara yeni bir anlayış kazandırmak için bir dizi tavsiyelerde bulunulacaktır.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of narcoterrorism originates from drug trafficking and terrorism that are networked. In other words, narcoterrorism is the reflection of the illegal drug trade which increases drug production and provides pervasive abuse of drugs; and also it is the illegal use of power which terrorizes public security and public health. Drug dealers penetrate into the legal economy and launder drug money in order to finance terrorism. To keep up with drug money laundering, drug enforcement officers should be operated by chasing the source of money and freezing of assets and they should also be cooperated with the national financial managing authorities of the country.

Narcoterrorism characterizes a new version of organized crime phase. Despite the traditional drug cartels, the new system is much more self-ruling because of possessing paramilitary forces. Narcoterrorism brought about 'narcostate' which is a model of state where the drug traffickers manipulate the exercise of power of the central government by exploiting economic, political and paramilitary force such as Afganistan and Colombia. Drug criminals causes terrorism to hamper justice so as to change politics of the country and to operate illgal drug trade. A coordination of anti-drug and anti-terror policy can be exercised to deal with both threats.

In terms of domestic fight against drugs, drug-addicted people must be cured, and also drug enforcement agents must be trained and educated by the international competents' colleagues in order to stop the demand for illegal drugs. Above all, the government is liable to raise the awarness of public that the drug money feeds terrorist and paramillitary forces which target to dissolve the country. To fight against narcoterrorism on the international level, the International Criminal Police Organization such as Interpol and the World

Customs Organization synchronize international drug enforcement. Besides, the United Nations coordinate administrative measures in order to control production and distribution of drugs.

Narcoterrorism is increasingly linked to the narcotics-producing regions of the so-called Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle. The drug consumer countries which are mostly developed countries, consider drug problem as a liability of producer countries and criticize them not to solve the problem at source by taking serious measures at customs against illegal production and distribution of drugs. On the other hand, producer countries which are mostly developing countries, indicate that the demand of the consumer countries keep the drug trade alive. They request from the consumer countries to cut down their demand by preventing legal or illegal use in their countries, treating drug addicts and using drug enforcement so as to eradicate the drug trade market.

II. THE CONCEPT OF NARCOTERRORISM

Narcoterrorism is the complex of drugs, violence and illegal exercise of power which threatens democracy and the superiority of law. Terrorist attacks are designated as 'narcoterrorism' to describe operations by drug traffickers using terrorist methods, such as the use of car bombs, assassinations and kidnappings, against drug enforcement police in Colombia and Peru in order to influence politics of the country so as to benefit from the financial incomes of drug trafficking easily and killed judges so as to impede justice. Drug cartels, mafia or other criminal organisations whose actions are defined as the challenge of drug traffickers to influence the policy of government by the systematic threat or use of violence". (Callavani, 2004: 6-14)

III. OBJECTIVES

Political aspect of motivation is a major factor in categorizing an organisation as 'terrorist'. The driving force is mainly financial gain for criminal organizations that pose a challenge to the state such as the judicial section and law enforcement agencies. Politically-motivated organisations desire to control the state and society concluding to reform the state and society structure to fit their ideological conviction. (Makarenko, 2001: 7)

In reference to International Drug Conventions 1988, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances may be used only for medical use. In some consumer countries such as the Netherlands and Germany, needle-exchange programs have been applied to stop the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C within and outside the drug using community. However, the illegal drug trade has a commercial approach to produce and distribute drugs. Drug dealers and terrorists take advantage of the atmosphere of drugs and corruption while carrying out their lucrative operations. (Hartelius, 2008: 3-4; Jelsma & Pien, 2004: 2)

The objective of religiously-based group such as al-Queda is to change current structure of the society and rebuild in their sense of order with strictly religious motifs . In contrast, drug traffickers want to make profit in the economy with less intervention to the state structure. Their activities benefit greatly from societal disorder and negligible government control over state and population. (Collier & Hoeffler, 1998; Miller & Damask, 1996: 124)

IV. NARCOSTATES

Criminal organizations like so-called 'Mafia' have been operating in drug trade during the post-war era. Traditional syndicates have built up more flexible system such as cartels where the form of operations are frequently modified.

Terrorist groups are composed of religious and political-based organizations and also paramilitary groups. For instance, Colombian paramilitary groups used armed forces to compel the United States to release drug criminals. In the post war period, Communist countries carried out government-based narcoterrorism for political and commercial reasons. For instance, Bulgaria has transferred the large amount of heroin to Europe to carry interest. North Korea as well, has been involved in drug smuggling through diplomatic channels. (Napoleoni, 2005: 43; Lee, 2004: 296)

The name of 'narcostate' is used in illustrating countries where the drug traffickers manipulate the authority of the government via political, financial and paramilitary force. Afganistan, Colombia and Burma are called 'narcostates'. Therefore, taking measures against illegal drug trade in these countries became extremely complicated and drug enforcement did not implement since the political power had been passed on to drug traffickers and invalidated international drug control. For instance, Colombian drug traffickers got off the ground of legal field and managed to abolish the article providing the extradition of criminal citizens to other countries. (McCoy, 2003: 23; Lee, 1989: 223)

V. MUTUAL INTERESTS OF CRIMINAL ORGANISATIONS

Use of the term narcoterrorism is involved in both drug trade and terrorism which indicates a cooperative link between organised crime and terrorism. Therefore, a coordinated policy approach is encouraged. Narcoterrorism could mean the merger of drug trafficking and terrorism in one organisation. It is difficult to clarify the precise character of such cooperation. However, through

arrests of drug traffickers, law enforcement officials have ascertained of interaction between terrorists and individuals in the drug trade. Seizures also verify that the interaction has international characterization .

The common characteristics of terrorist and drug organizations are composed of criminal activities. Both types of organizations have strong economic resources that they can utilize advanced technologies in order to build up a security protection of their own and against disclosure of the members. They also launder illicit drug money so as to avoid taxes and rule out forfeiture.

In addition to common structures and interests, their cooperation can also be based on the principals of mutual gain. These organisations necessitate supplies and services, such as weapons and techniques of money laundering that can be acquired by trading or sharing resources between organisations. They apply advanced methods in shipments such as reloading of cargo, re-registering in several countries and using false identity papers to cover the place of origin. They also publish instructional brochures to educate their members. (Bjömehed, 2004: 309)

To obtain evidence with regard to criminal operations, drug enforcement officials and intelligence service infiltrate into criminal organizations by sending in officers with false identities.

The similarities established by drug and terrorist organizations provide them to exchange intelligence and technical methods. Their common motive is that to weaken society in order to enlarge their profits and their political influence. The vicious concept-based activities are guided by political and religious motives whilst the drug syndicates have simply commercial motives. (Kenney, 2007; Nordstrom, 2007)

Both narcotics and terrorist organisations are criminal in international law no matter what their activities are stimulated by politics or economics. The concealment from law enforcement officials is crucial for the endurance of the terrorist organisations and individual members. Drug traffickers and terrorists pay attention to remain non-disclosure by the authorities. Many of the organisations have internationalised during the past decade and carry out transnationally . (Makarenko, 2001: 3-4; Miller & Damask, 1996: 125-126)

VI. OPERATIONAL INSTRUMENTS OF CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS

The profit of the narcotics trade is difficult to ascertain by reason of the criminal feature of the activity. It relies on where the income is acquired because the value of narcotics change depending on where they are sold and purchased, and production rates also vary according to market demand. A decreased supply of narcotics could actually increase the profit gained by terrorist organisations involved in the drug trade. For instance, after the sanction on poppy cultivation in Afganistan the prices of Afghan opium considerably increased in the region. Terrorist groups also use these channels for laundering money such as the hawala system or the black market peso exchange. Therefore, the eradication or replacement of corps should be performed by evaluating drug trade market in producing countries. (Hutchinson, 2002: 4)

Due to severe law enforcement and counter-measures, both criminal organisations have had to spread the authority in order to remain obscure. Thus gang-leaders did not need to check out the organizations strictly which secured

net of organizations more flexible atmosphere in involving in illegal activities to gain finances. (Dishman, 2005: 238)

Drugs and weapons are of interest to both narcotics organisations and terrorist groups for military and economic purposes. Weapons became easy to acquire after the dismantling of the Soviet Union and security set of rules. Therefore a large number of weapons circulated on the illegal market at the end of the ColdWar. (Bjomehed, 2004: 310; Bailes, 2004)

Elusive resources can be used as an inducement for cooperation and communication. For instance, drug traffickers have expert knowledge of methods and routes for illicit transfer and transportation of narcotics, information for the relocation of goods and people. They can also exploit the expert knowledge in military tactics, missiles and skills of explosives that terrorists occupy. Moreover, knowledge of route network is vital for narcotics and terrorist organisations. For instance, Balkan routes, from Afghanistan through Iran, Turkey, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Albania and from there into Europe are also capable of transporting other illegal goods or people. In recent years the Balkan route has lost its importance due to the war in former Yugoslavia and to increased border security in Iran. The Northern route has gained importance, allowing narcotics to move from Afghanistan through the Central Asian states, passing into the Caucasus into Russia, the Baltic states and on toward Scandinavia and Europe. (Dishman, 2005: 246)

VII. COUNTERMEASURES OF NARCOTERRORISM

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, the perspective against drugs has changed. It has been recognized that drug abuse is financing terrorism. Although activities such as treatment services try to reduce domestic drug demand by

warning the damage of drug habit for drug addicts, the fight against drug requires international and cooperative remedies. (Davids, 2002: 103; Bejerot & Hartelius, 1984: 28)

The weakness of most countries is to lack a systematic method to intervene against the demand for drugs by law enforcement agency. Drug addicts are considered as passive victims and are not seen as kingpin in the expansion of the drug market eventhough they spread their drug habits to the public which act as a marketing means. (Dalrymple, 2006: 38)

The nature of the war against drugs varies depending on whether it concerns a producing, transit or consumer country. The link of counter-drug and counter-terrorism measures within national judicial legislations illustrates that policy and practical countermeasures must overlap in order to fight against the organisations involved and impede loopholes in law enforcement as a result of lack of coordination and cooperation. (Bjomehed, 2004: 314-316)

The cooperation between law enforcement and intelligence agencies is advocated on a national, regional and international level in order to strengthen a global response to this severe challange to international security. Security devices and customs equipments can be used for detecting bombs and narcotics. Training of national and foreign law enforcement officials can benefit counter-crime measures. For instance, British initiatives as the international effort to combat the narcotics trade have trained and equipped Afghan security forces for this purpose.

The United States has a crucial influence over the identification of narcoterrorist organizations. For instance, UCK guerilla in Kosovo was called as a terrorist organization carrying out heroin trading. When the political situation

changed in the former Yugoslavia, the Kosovian guerilla was declared as a liberation movement. The Vital Interdiction of Criminal Terrorist Organisations proposed Act of the United States would give the right to investigate drug dealers, terrorists and narco-terrorists. It would also facilitate the condemnation of drug dealers verified to have a connection to terrorist organisations and promote severe punishments. (Lee, 2004; Brock and McCoy, 2003)

The United Nations Drug Conventions and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime control the production and distribution of drugs under the name of administrative measures in order to impede the national legalization of drugs in adhering states. The United States encourages the growing of alternative crops by providing equipment other than growing drug plants in order to create a new source of income for farmers. In addition, a foundation based on international law to cooperate in drug enforcement is recommended in reference to the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The countermeasures against narcoterrorism are operated by the authorities of the member states while international drug enforcement is organized through the International Criminal Police Organization and the World Customs Organization. The mutual agreements and bilateral cooperation play an essential role in drug enforcement operations. (Bjomehed & Makarenko, 2002)

International conventions and cooperative bodies with the UN and Financial Task Force provide legal authority for exchange activities against money laundering by tracking and freezing assets before illegal profits are converted into legal assets in reference to the 1988 UN Convention Against Illicit Trafficking.

The counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism measures are subject to intelligence gathering to receive information on networks, shipments, money laundering

systems and plans of forthcoming activities or attacks. Institutions have increased their cooperation on intelligence to enlarge information gathering. For instance, the Drug Enforcement Administration Financial Investigations Section has links to assist in intelligence gathering and perform investigations with both the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Financial Review Group that are responsible for tracing money laundering in the United States. (Hutchinson, 2002: 4-5)

VIII. CONCLUSION

The war against narcoterrorism remains ineffective depending on inadequate organization and deficient measures. To perform effectively in the fight against drug trade, plantation of opium poppy should be replaced with new crops such as coffee which should be granted gratis by the government to the farmers in order to disrupt the production of drugs. In addition, low-income rural areas should be supported to realize economic development.

Furthermore, the awareness of public should be raised in the threat for narcoterrorism and national drug intervention strategies should call for a coordination of enforcement, treatment and therapy services in order to reduce demand for drugs. It should be also bared in mind that the use of drugs out of medical treatment is to fund for narcoterrorism and quasi organised crimes.

Finally, it should be realized that measures taken against money laundering should be incorporated more effectively to any investigation and prosecution of drug crimes. Accordingly, model projects in drug prevention and treatment by police or customs authorities and social services of other countries should be adopted. If necessary, a special military force should be built up against drug

syndicates and narcoterrorists; and also the extradition mechanism of drug criminals for prosecution should be executed in other countries.

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