Managing the Activities Against Trafficking in Human Beings

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Abstract
Organized crime has a long history and has permanently adapted to the weaknesses of the legal system, procedures and operational capabilities of the national Law Enforcement Agencies. Economic discomfort appears to be the main reason for illegal migration movement throughout the world. Due to unemployment, many human beings become victims of trafficking—prostitution and slavery. Nevertheless, many of the willing migrants undertake the hazardous travel to their destination country with criminal syndicates services specialized in people smuggling. Psychological impact for the victims of human trafficking for prostitution is huge. For trafficked human beings there is a big trauma and finding the appropriate place back in society, housing, jobs it’s difficult to be addressed.

The new developing democracies not always respond to this critical situation. Organized crime became a channel through which everything it’s possible to be achieved: by smuggling, influencing officials, getting visas, border crossing enjoying illegal deals, registering a stolen car, procuring forged documents/identity and organs donators.

In Europe are spend yearly billions of Euro for prostitution and other commercial sexual services, which means that trafficking in human beings is a highly profitable business. The market—both legal and illegal—for commercial services is considered a major force driving trafficking.

Key words: human trafficking, organized crime, migrants, smuggling, law enforcement agencies.

Basic assumptions
- New developing democracies, as well as the developed democracies have to face with a great challenge which has the aptitude to develop itself very fast, to threat the economical progress, and democratic institutions and even to conquer parts of the territory of an independent state by replacing the states institutions authority without fighting a classic war. But if needed, organized crime networks can use violence and intimidation.
- Organized crime has a long history and has permanently adapted to the weaknesses of the legal system, procedures and operational capabilities of the national Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA).
- The complexity of the international actuality, the interdependence of different social, economical, political and security factors, make the link between organized crime networks and terrorism networks, a mortal threat, both for developed and developing democracies.
• The attitude towards the human trafficking, which in some states is regarded from different point of view, not quite acceptable, both from humanitarian and legal point of view is required to be changed in accordance with the best international practices.

• LEAs are usually prepared to take appropriate action and if not yet, they have at least the strong willing and capabilities to learn and implement very fast the specific standards but, they need as militaries also, the political decision, which not always comes in due time, except if political pressure is coming from the major states and international institutions actors.

• The logical conclusion comes as a result of the previous findings: we should not fear of criminals, even if they threaten our life and our families, as it is clear many times they do, but we should be afraid and feel responsible in front of our peoples and our children which deserve a safer and better life.

• The need to admit that Organized Crime exists, to investigate their activity, to prosecute and put their members behind the bars, this the way we have to deal with organized crime.

Due to unemployment, many human beings become victims of trafficking- prostitution and slavery.

International attitude towards organized crime networks has to be strong and united.

My research paid a great deal of attention to the Black Sea region, as an emerging strategically geographical area connecting the western Balkans and central Europe zones, to the former ex-soviet space from the Black Sea area and further on Central Asia, a zone filled with regional latent and frozen conflicts, starting with Kosovo, Transdniestria, Abkhazia, Osetia, Chechnya, Nagorny- Kharabakh.

All the modern and developing democracies consider within their national security strategy, organized crime as a potential threat.

Psychological impact for the victims of human trafficking for prostitution is huge. For trafficked human beings there is a big trauma and finding the appropriate place back in society, housing, jobs it’s difficult to be addressed. The new developing democracies not always respond to this critical situation.

Organized crime became a channel through which everything it’s possible to be achieved: by smuggling, influencing officials, getting visas, border crossing enjoying illegal deals, registering a stolen car, procuring forged documents/identity and organs donators.

For many countries as Romania for example, the major security threat is the poverty which can be fueled by organized crime activity. Poverty can fuel the extremism and radicalism attitudes, the diminishing of the state institutions authority and efficiency, finally affecting even the social cohesion and balance.

However it is not fair and professional not to talk about a living example existing in a developed western democracy which is an example (good? bad?) to which point organized crime can go. This example is Italy, and of course the Italian Mafia, Cosa Nostra, which in the most undeveloped part of the country, Sicily, is part of the daily life. The high profile attacks are perpetrated at the daylight even without bearing masks, criminals being aware of the enforced mafia law –“who speaks, never speaks again”, referring to possible witnesses. This insecurity affects tourism, investors, economy, and daily life of the people.

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citizens. Erosion of the state institutions due to continuously facing the underground economical processes, is affecting the capacity of ruling the country. Clear policies have to be implemented.

In this fight, the US Administration is the leading force, mobilizing and supporting world wide community efforts to tackle this primitive approach towards human beings, funding during 2004 a total number of 271 Programs. “Human trafficking is an offense against human dignity, a crime in which human beings, many of them teenagers and young children, are bought and sold and often sexually abused by violent criminals.” NATO, UN and EU policies reflect their concern and commitment upon combating organized crime and human trafficking.

The threats which transcend borders have to be addressed by Governments. Challenges as trafficking persons, narcotics, and weapons have to be addressed. But the Black Sea region has vast connections and influences with and from the south-east Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia as well.

The ratification of the “trafficking protocol” to the Palermo Convention by 29 European countries as at 1 August 2005 constitutes a political decision of the signing countries towards fighting human trafficking, considered as a flagrant violation of the rights of the individual through exploitation.

In Europe and Central Asia, most victims of trafficking are women and girls who are exploited for sexual purposes. In Europe are spend yearly billions of Euro for prostitution and other commercial sexual services, which means that trafficking in human beings is a highly profitable business. The market-both legal and illegal- for commercial services is considered a major force driving trafficking. In a number of countries, prostitution or the “red light milieu” serve as an entry point for organized crime groups and networks in a given area. It is therefore no coincidence that the large majority of victims are found in the prostitution sector, and the share of migrant sex workers appears to be ever increasing. This requires a professional attitude from local authorities.

Currently, economic discomfort appears to be the main reason for illegal migration movement throughout the world. Nevertheless, many of the willing migrants undertake the hazardous travel to their destination country with criminal syndicates services specialized in people smuggling. People smuggling syndicates benefit from weak legislation, huge profits, and the relatively low risk of detection, prosecution, and arrest compared with other activities of transnational organized crime. It appeared in my research that, in some countries either the asylum procedure goes first or repatriation or even jailing it’s an option followed by local authorities, as it occur in many Arab countries. That requires the need for complying with US and UN recommendations and for example to create a structure that enables police and other law enforcement agencies to cooperate on a global basis.

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5 President G.W. Bush-Office of the Press Secretary Washington, DC January 10, 2006 with the occasion of signing the H.R. 972, Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act.
Europe, EUROPOL fulfills that role, and considerable efforts are being made to develop the services that it can offer⁷.

Migrants from Asia region are mainly using the route via the Commonwealth of Independent States. Migrants travel from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan to Russia and from there via the Ukraine and Slovakia and the Czech Republic to western European countries or even farther to the U.S.A. At the same time the classic Balkan route from Asian countries via Iran and Turkey and from there via the Balkan states to Western Europe is used for the smuggling of migrants as well as for smuggling of all other kinds of illegal goods such as drugs and firearms⁸.

The status in human trafficking for 2005 for the developing countries from southeastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia is as follows⁹:

To be mentioned that we are facing with both internal and external human trafficking. Human trafficking can take the aspect of transit or destination (local needs) within the same country. Many of the gipsy children are trafficked for sex but more specifically for begging and petty crimes. Children are also trafficked for forced labor (agriculture, mining, factories, harbors, metal workers, wood workers, involuntary domestic servitude, street vendors, camel jockeys, sweatshops).

Internal trafficking consists of the movement from rural undeveloped area to urban area. Places where forced prostitution -as form of the human trafficking occurs -are the following: truck stops, surroundings of the military camps, border towns, resorts. On other continents children are used different as for example in Burma as porters during military operations. In Burundi children are being used during 12 years of war even as soldiers (mainly boys but girls also)-the PALOPEHU-TU-FNL rebel faction.

“Exotic dancers” -2003, out of 239 visas issued in Canada for this purpose, the majority have been for Romanians. In 2004, after revising the policy –none.

In China we have the internally trafficked girls for forced marriage.

On of the most common tricks used by traffickers is the obligation of the trafficked persons to work for “Repaying the debts” after arriving in the destination country, as mentioned above. Insurgents in Colombia forcibly conscripted and exploited as many as 14,000 children. D.R.Congo-30,000 children were associated with armed groups. Unfortunately, in the same area, the UN peacekeeping were accused for sexually exploiting women and girls.

The South eastern European countries are in the same time source, transit, and destination countries. Women from this area are found as victims in many parts of the world. As the most severe forms of trafficking-the involuntary servitude-consisting of excessive working hours, late or nonpayment of wages, physical and sexual abuse, withholding of passports.

Many children originated in Caucasus and Central Asia are trafficked for using as camel jockeys. They are overworked, malnourished, physically abused, thrown from the camels and suffered neurological damages without receiving a minimal attention or medical

support. Organized begging rings are using as mentioned before, gipsy children originated in Balkans. What came to my attention especially the very low consideration from many of the Arab countries to the issue of protecting the trafficked human beings. In many cases, really incredible, Koranic teachers and Catholic Christian priests were condemned for child sexual abuses, as in Romania for example.

Due to the obstacles raised by the amended legal frames and LEA Agencies, prostitution is occurring in private homes or hotels instead of bars. Boys as young as 6 months old were reportedly kidnapped or sold to traffickers and raised to become camel jockeys in UAE. NATO partnership programs have the controlling of the illegal trafficking, as one of the primordial goal of cooperation\textsuperscript{10}.

In Asia we meet the marriage brokers (Kazakhstan, North Koreans for China). Specific for the south eastern Europe is the fact that there is a decline in human being trafficking: fewer victims return from the countries of the region to their country of origin and fewer victims seek assistance; more victims return from EU countries to their home countries; fewer “irregular migrants” are registered in the transit countries of the region; there are fewer reports on trafficking of human beings\textsuperscript{11}.

However I established that, according with the “Trafficking in Persons Report” released by the US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, released on June 3, 2005 the status of human trafficking in the new developing democracies- south east of Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia for 2004 was as follows:

1. Countries considered during the survey: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland (25 independent states and one International administered province).

2. Two major countries I also considered due to their extensive role on human trafficking market, the size and geographical position-China and Russia. References are made to the countries which present extreme practices even if not mentioned above.

The main authority to deal with THB in Romanian is ANITP- the Romanian Agency for Trafficking in Human Beings, part of the Romanian Police. Its actions of identification and referral of the victims, corroborated with the prosecution of perpetrators, are part of a broader strategy to curb this phenomenon.

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\textsuperscript{10} NATO, Security through Partnership, 2006, NATO Public Diplomacy Division-Distribution Unit
\textsuperscript{11} Organized Crime situation Report 2005-Council of Europe.

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