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“Organize Crime and Corruption in the South-East European Countries”

1. The concept of organized crime.

The ambiguity which exists nowadays referring to the limits between the organized crime and corruption and Mafia led to some confusions in setting the level attained by the crime in a state or another, which explains the fact that some states don't admit to be confronted with the organized crime.

The organized crime represents that offence segment to which are reported the illegal activities which can affect more political economic and social fields, activities that are constantly developed through different means by individual associations with a well-defined hierarchy, with a specialized structure and the purpose of obtaining illicit profits at very high levels.¹

2. Why the phenomenon of organized crime appears and develops in the societies of transition.

The crush of dictatorial system led to a transition period from this kind of system to democratic structures.

The centralized system passes to a very accelerated disintegration system from economic point of view, which develops within a legislative void, a lack of transparency and experience causes lying to a general corruption phenomenon.

Under these circumstances, the people prepared to take the advantage of the new situation are those who worked in key-jobs in the previous system.

The newly formed structures represented the first cores of the organized crime groups.

3. The new forms of the organized crime.

3.1 By its own nature, the modern organized crime tends to extend permanently. It is engaged in all types of legal or illegal transactions, on the condition to be profitable and to offer the possibility of the reciclation of the obtained funds.

It wants to own the Power, using all possible mans ways.

The forms of the organized crime are:

- a) Narcotics traffic- in every year hundreds of persons are involve in narcotics traffic and many tones of drugs are confiscated. The cocaine and heroine and the most wanted.
- b) Persons traffic is a new form of organized crime. Young women and children are transported from eastern Europe to western Europe for prostitution and organs transplant.
- c) Arts traffic- today, one of the most prosperous business is the arts traffic. Many values are brought outside of countries.
- d) Stolen cars from Vestern Europe, especially are sell in Eastern Europe.
- e) Arms dealing has become a new business, especially for the ex-Soviet Union states.
- f) Money landering. Many western businessman used the Eastern European bank systems for money landering.
- g) The minor delinquency the antechamber of the organized crime. The little offenders unidentified yet for the perpetration of robberies, thefts and false money placation, represents the engrossed segment by a severe selection by organized crime groups.
- h) Corruption of the main public oficals is a new and dengeros form of organized crime. The organized crime groups succeeded to distroy the people's trust through bribe and influence traffic.

3.2. Organized crime has become a general phenomenon in the Eastern Europe and in the ex-Soviet Union states.

Organised crime doesn't care about the frontiers. The most extended organized crime groups are in the following countries:

Ukraine- Caucasian Mafia is the most structured criminal organization, based on the blood ties. These organizations act on the same principles as the Italian mob.

Criminal groups acts especially in the drug dealing, involving much deeper to create a new, honest look, through the opening of new firms and casinos, which helps to money laundering.¹

Russia- the illegal guns, ammunition and explosives traffic is a more and more often-practiced activity by the Russian crime organization.¹

The main sources of obtaining of those mentioned above are the military dumps of the ex-Soviet army and the military units that belonged to the large military industrial complex, converted to private or mix firms.

Poland- **the most known kind of organized crime from Poland is still the narcotic traffic.**

The synthetic narcotics production and selling internal and external market is higher and higher¹.

Slovakia, a country situated at the crossroads between East and West is in the attention of Mafia organizations with a well-known tradition that included it in the main drugs, guns and not for long radioactive substances traffic routes.¹

Slovenia is situated on the most frequently used Balkan-shipping route of the heroine.

Besides, Slovenia is also recognized as a big LSD drug consumer.¹

4.Characteristics of some phenomena of offence in Romania.

4.1. Romania represents an increasing interest for the international transport of narcotics from southern America to Europe; especially to Germany, Holland, Belgium and Austria.

A small percent of drugs remains in Romania. A huge part is turned into account in very large consume countries.

4.2. The National patrimony law protects Romanian's art facts.

Despite this, many values are brought outside of Romania. Criminal organizations, especially from Italy have made true buying and exporting program for Romanian art facts. Romanian experts for evaluations have helped the Italians.

In exchange for some "presents" and bribe the values belonging to the national Patrimony have been classified. This classification made possible "legal" transition of art facts out of the country.

The arts dealers have used the bribe to create some connections directly in customs.

4.3. The law, which punished usury, was repealing long time in Romania.

1. The long talks of mass media determinate the Romanian police to initiate a law project by Parliament. This project hasn't been voted yet.

The little usury develops under the following scheme: the debtor comes to the usurer for certain sum. He calculates the profit and establishes the mortgage (usually the house) and he adds it to the lend sum. The notary certifies the contract, knowing the situation. In the term moment, the usurer isn't to be found and so scheduled and offered profit to the debtor.

The usurer doesn't want to get the money back, but the mortgaged property or to create the debtor dependency on his money by special persuasive methods and by a posture of a tolerant imagine/ figure.

The Cornea case was one of the most famous usury cases, which involved political, police and magistrate's officials.

In 1998 Cornea borrows from Staicu (a well-known businessman) \$10 000.

From the credit, Staicu asked Cornea to destitute Ion Jianu the president of FPS Dolj County.

In the middle of the scandal Daniela M. Tudor public notary certified a receipt by hand by which was sustained that Mr. Staicu was returned the "landed" \$10 000 "The Event of the

day” (Evenimentul Zilei) published on March 23th 1999 fragments from SRI report about the businessman D.Staicu, produced a real earthquake at all levels of central and local authorities.

SRI writing touched names of the magistrate from Craiova but despite this

Justice superior level weren't made to know all this until March 2000.¹

But the classic script of usury and organized crime invilve Gipsy Mafia groups. Those groups applyies bad tratments to the debtors who cant pays the borrow sums.All this are known by the police officers which keep the silence and doesn't do anything, because are bribed or intimidate by the Gipsy Mafia.

4.4. Money laundering is one of the new forms of organised crime in Romania.

Under the mask of some finance-collaborations many foreign citizens gathered in real outside networks trying to involve Rumanian partners in money laundering. That money was optioned by illegal activities as: banking swindle, narcotics traffic, stolen cars etc.

A part of national bank system was used in money laundering.

4.5. In my opinion organized crime doesn't represent only classics Mafia type of groups, in the way that those groups are known and studied.

I do believe that in Romania exists a criminal financial organization, which has as members bank systems and political officials.

By corruption and financial engineering, this very organized network has made to extorcate a lot of money from mere citizens.

Now in Romania the National Found of Investment scandal reached very large proportions. The Government it practically incapable to resolve the situation.

Sorin Ovidiu Vintu-Romanian businessman created the National Found of Investment. N.F.I. is a mutual found of investment with an open circuit and a medium risk factor.

In every city of the country there existed agencies where the deposited money were cached and there were sent to Bucharest. The interest varied, there existed periods in which it reached 10% every month.

In 1998 N.F.I concluded a contract with C.E.C- National Deposit House. The contract required that N.D.H was obliged to pay the citizens depositions at the last values.

From that moment the volume of the depositions considerably grew, also increasing the population's trust, because the National Deposit House was the only bank guarantee by the National Bank of Romania.

The crush happened in full glory, in May 1999, as a result an article published in a newspaper from city Cluj. This article created panic and determind people to withdraw the money.

After this, Ioana Maria Vlas- the president of the society, which distributed the font, SOVINVEST- ran away from the country. Research proved that:

I. The National comity of mobiliare Values, which was subordinated by the Parliament, didn't do its duty. They received false information from SOVINVEST. This comity was supposed to follow the N.F.I activity.

II. N.D.H- as a state institution didn't have to sign for this contract, through its leader.

III. The Notional Bank of Romania had to follow the N.D.H activity and not to allow conclusion of such a contract.

IV. The police and the justice are guilty because they didn't involved in the discovery of the true guilty officials, as they should have.

There is a very big probability that high level politicians and bankers know about or at least to figure what's really hapening with N.F.I system. The big question is why every body kept the silence for such a long time?

More over it was published a list of the political officials and the withdrawn sums.

It isn't known what truly happened with the money. A lot of suppositions are made but nobody knows the truth.

Later on, the losers gathered in an association sued C.E.C. As a result of this trial of the investitures won, because the N.F.I documents were perfectly valid.

As a consequence of the analysis made by the government was reached the conclusion that the payments towards the investors must be made.

The Romanian Supreme Court decides that: the payments are made on condition that there aren't exceeded \$350 for every person with a medium income of less than \$47.

But the investments were made in national currency- RO.L. Thus the investors lose by the inflation which increasing with 18% in this period. The Romanian mass media suggest that all this script was possible because of the very high level corruptions.

In my opinion, in every stage of this scandal, as well as now, the information was handled.

5. Conclusions

Global evolution of organized crime and the internationalizing tendencies of it determinate groups of countries to react, first initiative relying on the adoption of the national legislation.

The main changes relied on:

- The harmonization of penal legislatures by the incrimination of those activities compatible with organized crime. Legislative system from Romania was enriched with a new penal law which favors the under-cover action and the monitorization of telephonic devices.
- The incrimination for the membership to organized crime.
- Goods taken by illegal ways by organized crime to be confiscated.

A) Information, the remade and exploitation activity must take place in a strict legal background and to be in a permanent control of skillfully institutions.

To penetrate the functional mechanisms of organized crime, it is often resorted to the infiltration of information and secret agents.¹

B) I finish this work by drawing attention on an important voice of education.

In a third millennium society we must take care of our children, by us.

The juvenile delinquency may become a waiting room of organized crime and of corruption. For this problems not to extend anymore we must introduce in schools law-lessons, and I do not speak only about schools with economical or social sciences profile but all schools, all levels.¹

We are in the new millennium. As never before, the world's people need officials of their governments to serve them with unquestioned integrity. Corruption of justice and security officials especially betrays their trust.

Corruption cannot long co-exist with democracy and organized crime misallocates resources, hurts the poor and weakens economies and societies.

Governments and their peoples can act and can succeed in our struggle against it, if only we have will and the determination to do so.

INFORMATION SOURCE

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