

THREAT: Transnational Crime

*The only real sign of a recession is when the Mafia starts laying off judges in
New Jersey.*

– Anon. / Traditional

Estimates vary widely on the value of transnational organized crime (TOC) -- the FBI uses an estimate of \$1 trillion per year. A key instrument in addressing TOC world-wide is the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* of September 2003 which commits signatories to introduce a range of measures such as the creation of domestic criminal offences, frameworks for multilateral juristic and police cooperation, and extradition.* The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) finds that TOC groups commonly comprise 20-50 persons involved in 5 or more countries. UNODC has defined five TOC *typologies* – *standard hierarchy, regional hierarchy, clustered hierarchy, core group, criminal network* – that move beyond the *mob boss* model to the reality of actual groups. This is useful for tactical purposes and helps agencies achieve a common vocabulary.

TOC has diversified from traditional domains of local mob crime -- "numbers racket", protection, prostitution, and **illicit drugs** – to take full commercial advantage of globalized markets and the internet. The same network that moves drugs across the world can be adapted to transfer arms, explosives, cash, or untaxed tobacco. Organised Immigration Crimes – **people smuggling, human trafficking** – can move illegal immigrants, sex slaves, criminals or terrorists across the world. TOC moves into areas of *petty* crime when the rewards are sufficient, displacing local petty criminals or recruiting them (stolen motor vehicle). In this way TOC underpins much local crime. Similarly, TOC moves into new profitable areas such as **identity theft, phishing, intellectual property crime** (fake/unlicensed brands), **cultural property crime** (smuggling of artifacts), and **environmental crime** (**illegal dumping, wildlife smuggling, illegal logging** and, soon, **water theft**). TOC also *enables* other illegal activities by supply of **false documents**, protection, assassinations, and (in the UK) hire of weapons for criminal activity by other parties. TOC activities lend themselves to high degrees of product integration and vertical and/or horizontal integration – enslaved sex-workers or foot-soldiers are often addicted to the drugs traded by the same criminal enterprise.

But any mutation of TOC uses the traditional tools – **suborning of officials**, violence and coercion, secrecy, and willingness to break laws. Common to all activities is **cash** which is paramount in unlawful transactions. This creates a continual need for **money-laundering** for conversion into real assets such as property, legitimate businesses or laundered (seemingly lawful) cash.

TOC activity comprises a multitude of criminal acts, but agencies must focus on the enabling organization. To make a conviction for a single crime will often be counter-productive. TOC groups have such organizational and financial depth that they generally survive the neutralization of individual members. Also any minor agency success may merely teach the TOC how to improve its operations. Hence **intelligence** and **counter-intelligence** are crucially important, as is *proactive* policing rather than reactive policing instinctive to compliance officers. Compliance agencies must adapt to the changing methods and interests of TOC sometimes by reinventing themselves. In the UK the **Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)** was launched in April 2006, bringing together the *National Crime Squad*, the *National Criminal Intelligence Service*, and elements of *Customs* and *Immigration* that dealt with TOC. In the US, the **FBI Organized Crime Program** addresses TOC in geographic units such as *La Cosa Nostra* and *Italian Organized Crime*, *Asian Criminal Enterprises*. Some in the UK envy the US **RICO** (*Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations*) Act, purpose-built anti-racketeering legislation introduced in 1964, but others fear the slippery slope of legislation based on a *guilty until proven innocent* principle. One successful example of new structures for new challenges is **Europol**, established in 1999

with intelligence and proactive policing functions (not to be confused with **Interpol**, which has served as a documentation exchange since establishment in 1923).

Philosophically it is *legality* itself that is one enabler of TOC which can only operate in illegal (“**black market**”) environment. Alcohol prohibition created the *speak-easy* which became a revenue stream for organized crime. States such as **Netherlands** that *license* rather than outlaw prostitution and some drugs have eradicated criminal revenue, and the cost of law enforcement, in those commodities.

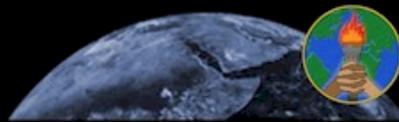
UNODC and others have emphasized the global *nexus* between **corruption, terrorism and crime**; for instance, “terrorists” may buy illicit weapons or materials from transnational syndicates with global reach and know-how. This nexus is crucial but must include aspects of **aid and foreign affairs**. Officials who are found corrupt in diversion of foreign aid are more easily suborned by TOC. **North Korea**’s strategic **counterfeiting** of \$100 *super-notes* finds obvious synergies with money laundering and other TOC activity. In the **Philippines** it is now difficult to distinguish between separatist raising funds and simple crime in actions such as **kidnapping for ransom**. Also in the Philippines a numbers racket (*jueteng*) is so wide spread as to have implicated the husband of President Arroyo.

The reality is that Transnational Organized Crime is a *fifth estate* (and *fifth column*) just as dangerous as any perceived terror from Islamic fundamentalism.

* facts are drawn from sources including ...
<http://www.soca.gov.uk> — http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in_depth/uk/2001/life_of_crime/crime.stm —
<http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/orgcrime/ocshome.htm> — http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/publications/Pilot_survey.pdf

Near-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<p>Governments that are themselves not directly involved in TOC are easily impressed of the need for enforcement by the loss of revenue. In fighting for elusive budgets this is effective enough but it misses that point that TOC suborns and perverts the Rule of Law itself. Just as some argue that “terrorism” is a political and policing issue rather than military, key politicians and officials need to recognise that TOC is not just a police or revenue matter but subversion just as dangerous as any bombing to the health of a society.</p>	<p>Much good work has been done by UNODC and others on the metrics and topology of TOC but largely within the silo of compliance agencies. A better, more revealing picture may come from coordination between these agencies and diplomatic and security intelligence agencies. Demarcation between many insurgencies and mere criminal activity may become clearer. Also, the direct role of states such as North Korea in TOC may be better understood through an exchange of information from political as well as policing silos.</p>	<p>As robber barons (<i>core nominals</i>) amass greater wealth across generations and become firmly entrenched behind legitimate businesses or in distant countries, TOC will be seen as truly a world-wide fifth estate. The laws and practices of first the tiniest and then larger nations will be suborned as mere tools and fronts for a sinister force ultimately more deadly than the minority views of Osama bin Laden. In one dimension, a policy of zero-tolerance is needed; in another legalization of those things that make TOC possible.</p>

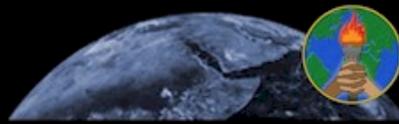
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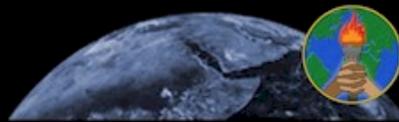
Hazard Level

Change Codes
↓ Deteriorated
• Steady
↑ Improved
↗ Alert

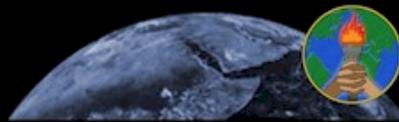
week-ended	See daily list of news items
2007 Jul 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are indications that Mexico's Sinaloa and Gulf cartels are trying to negotiate a truce and an agreement over territory. As a move against official corruption, Mexico has replaced all federal police chiefs and has ordered more than 1,000 high-ranking state and federal officers to complete a one year training course in crisis control, law enforcement techniques and English. One industry in Afghanistan is booming – this year there is a <u>record opium</u> crop.
2007 Jun 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombian President and friend of the <i>White House</i> Uribe continues to reject claims that he had received cash from paramilitaries and cocaine traffickers during his 2002 presidential campaign. Spanish authorities seized <u>4,000 kilograms</u> of cocaine from Venezuela and arrested 11 people during an anti-drug operation in the Atlantic Ocean.
2007 Jun 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eurojust and Europol co-ordinated action against organised criminal network in six countries -- the target is an Albanian criminal network trafficking of drugs and human beings, money laundering, illegal arms, stolen vehicles, document fraud and transnational burglary. A US Army general has apologized to New Mexico Guard members who were stripped in a search for gang tattoos -- "No tattoos were found on the 58 members of Task Force Cobra, made up of soldiers from Guard units around New Mexico." Mexico wants help, not doctrine; "But Mexico doesn't want another Plan Colombia, a mostly military anti-cocaine plan that has cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$5 billion since 2000" -- Mexico asks U.S. for more help against drugs, denies seeking Colombia-style aid. "The Zetas ... a group of highly trained military deserters ... have become so powerful that their old handlers are quickly losing control" -- Cartel's enforcers overpower their boss.
2007 Jun 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) classes the US as an 'ivory trade problem country' -- Illegal elephant ivory reaches the U.S. U.S. detects more coca being grown in Colombia -- "the area surveyed in 2006 was <u>19 percent larger</u> than in 2005 and that almost all of the increase in coca cultivation was found in the newly surveyed areas."
2007 Jun 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Cocaine running jeopardizes what's left of Haiti -- "You can follow the cocaine by tracing the money locally, even to the homes of some of my colleagues and sometimes the local population want a piece of it" said a policeman. Ponder This Graph for a Moment, Please -- the article shows, using State Department data, what <u>\$10B</u> in coca interdiction in Latin America has achieved over the last 13 years ... <i>nothing, zilch, nil</i>. In an incident sadly now almost too common to report, another severed head was used to encourage silence, this time at the "Tabasco Hoy" in Villahermosa. Mexico's Drug War: The Risky Military Downside -- in depth discussion including the desertion of Mexican Special Air Mobile Group to the Gulf cartel ('Los Zetas').
2007 May 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the progression of organized crime in Guyana, a key point on drug routes into the US -- Organised crime. The UN says <u>\$800M</u> in cocaine is now trafficked to Europe from West Africa



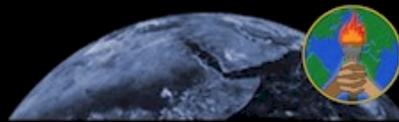
2007 May 20	<p><u>monthly.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mexican drug cartels continue the <i>criminal insurgency</i> by gunning down another <i>police commander</i> – most Mexican police at some time are given the choice "<i>plomo o plata</i>" ("<i>lead or silver</i>"; a bullet or a bribe). Criminal gangs are now fighting over territory in <i>cyberspace</i>, "<i>sending out waves of malware aimed at stealing zombie computers from rival gangs to build up their own army</i>" -- Online Criminal Gangs Battle With Botnets. <p>Colombia thinks the capture of Eduardo Hormanza Londono will dealing a severe blow to <i>Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)</i> by cutting a major link between the rebels and <i>drug trafficking money</i>. Two Colombian undercover military officers who had infiltrated FARC have been tortured, killed and found dead over the border in Venezuela. The <i>death-squad</i> scandal continues to circle ever closer to Colombia's President Uribe just as the US Congress considers whether <i>aid</i> will be continued.</p> <p>The UK Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) is trying to block drug dealers importing large amounts of <i>lidocaine</i> from overseas – it is used as a "<i>cutting</i>" agent to increase profits in <i>cocaine</i> dealing.</p>
2007 May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mexican drug cartels are offering direct provocations to the military in dropping a <i>severed head</i> at an army base; also <i>Michoacan state police chief</i> was arrested for cartel links. <p>Colombia, hitherto the largest recipient of US aid outside the <i>Middle East</i>, and the US administration await the next move by the US Congress -- Colombia May Re-Evaluate Its U.S. Ties.</p>
2007 May 06	<p>↑ In Mexico, <i>drug dealers</i> are not loath to engage with the <i>army</i> brought in to assist police -- five soldiers were ambushed and killed during an anti-drug operation. Interdiction of <u>25 tonne</u> of <i>cocaine</i>, valued at around <u>\$0.5B</u>, is the largest seizure in Colombian history. As of the end of 2006, the US Treasury had imposed sanctions on 527 companies and 815 individuals involved in 21 Colombian drug cartels, involving about \$1B in illegal assets. [These two stories indicate even an amount such as \$1B needs to be viewed in context.]</p> <p>The Australian government says it will strengthen laws on the <i>bribery</i> of foreign nationals following disclosure of the Australian Wheat Board's payment of massive bribes to Iraq in breach of UN sanctions. [What was in fact a concealed crime that readily escaped attention of Australia's indolent <i>Foreign Affairs</i> department was rationalized as a "cost of doing business".]</p>
2007 Apr 29	<p>↑ The US Coast Guard interdicted 40,000 pounds of <i>cocaine</i>, "<i>the largest single sea-based seizure of cocaine by a U.S. agency</i>".</p> <p>Venezuela is taking more steps to secure the <i>border</i> with Colombia -- "<i>the operation will ensure security in a zone mainly affected by illegal armed groups, drug traffickers and criminals.</i>"</p> <p>UK authorities say <i>credit cards skimmed</i> in the UK have been illegally used for funding <i>Tamil Tiger</i> activity in Sri Lanka.</p>
2007 Apr 22	<p>↑ Eleven people have now been sentenced to a total of 75 years jail for international <i>money laundering</i> in the UK -- "<i>officers targeted the activities of a number of <u>travel agencies</u> in the region which used the "hawala" system to transfer money abroad.</i>"</p> <p>A Japanese mayor has been killed by <i>mob boss</i> – although the incident was not "professional" but arose over a private disagreement with local government, this has alarmed the Japanese.</p> <p>Documents show that the big banana, Chiquita, paid up repeatedly to Colombian militia's despite warnings -- "<i>It was not the first time that Chiquita's operations in Colombia had run afoul of U.S. laws.</i>"</p>



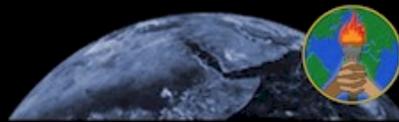
	<p>Nicaraguan authorities said they have dismantled a cell of Mexico's <i>Sinaloa</i> cartel - - "in Mexico, the cartel is fighting the rival Gulf Cartel for billion-dollar (Euro) drug smuggling routes into the United States." In the same week, Mexican police said they had arrested a key leader of the Gulf Cartel. Three more died in a shootout in Mexico on the US border, bringing drug-related deaths this year to more than <u>600</u>.</p>
2007 Apr 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Colombia, about 50,000 (or more), weary of crime-related violence, have marched in Cali protesting a car-bombing at police headquarters. The Government and the Drug lords: Who Rules Mexico? -- "the good news is that there are more capos in jail; the bad news is that it doesn't change anything". A survey reveals 90% of Guatemalans distrust the police, which they described as one of the most corrupt institutions in the country.
2007 Apr 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On a Colombian request, Interpol has issued an international arrest warrant for three Israelis accused of training private armies of Colombian drug cartels. A jailed paramilitary boss confirms that the big banana, Chiquita, had cynical links to paramilitary militias in Colombia -- "the payments were meted out according to which group -- rightist or leftist -- was in control of a region at the time ...". After massive coca eradication efforts in Colombia, market forces have forced drug cartels to move into Peru. A study has concluded that spam costs US businesses over <u>\$700 per employee</u> annually, or \$71B to all US businesses.
2007 Apr 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What might a Saudi "prince" whose allowance isn't enough and the Medellin cartel have in common? -- "Cover-up to save royal who smuggled cocaine", Mexico, swamped with illegal guns, is seeking to swap computers and other valuables for surrendered firearms -- "This is a barrio known for boxing champions, and now it has turned into a barrio where there were 32 murders last year." The Mexican Attorney General has urged the US to stem the flow of guns -- drugs and illegal immigrants may be coming from Mexico, but the guns are coming from the US. Mexican drug cartels control most Costa Rica maritime smuggling -- "Mexicans took the reins of international cocaine transport some years ago."
2007 Mar 26	<p>↓ Colombia's army chief is the most recent to be linked to rightist militias -- "Montoya ... would be the highest-ranking Colombian officer implicated in a growing scandal." Colombia's former security chief has been released on a technicality -- "the court found that the prosecutor who had ordered Jorge Noguera's arrest lacked the authority to do so." This year police deaths in Mexico have jumped 50% -- "At least 61 police officers have been killed in Mexico since the year began." In Tabasco, narco-gangs are still rolling decapitated heads into police posts. Following recent attempts at law enforcement, drug cartels have declared war on the Mexican government -- "experts doubt that the state can win". The brutal murder of three Salvadoran politicians by Guatemalan police who were subsequently murdered in prison begs several questions. Drug traffickers are said to routinely pay a "tax" of \$1,400 a pound to Venezuelan security forces to move cocaine through the terminals at Maiquetia airport. Panamanian police and USDEA seized the Panamanian flagged vessel in the Pacific near Coiba with <u>19.4 tonne</u> of cocaine. Congressman Ike Skelton suggests the \$4B "war on drugs" has had zero impact on the streets of the US [... apart from raising illicit prices]. [Added to the cost of interdiction is the far higher cost of domestic crime directly related to prohibition and high black-market prices.] A tiger team asked "what does it take to create secretive U.S. companies capable of</p>



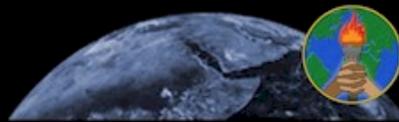
	<p>wiring funds to and from an <i>offshore bank</i> with virtually no identifying trail" – the answer: <u>it's easy</u>.</p>
2007 Mar 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$206M in <i>cash</i> was seized in <i>Mexico City</i> connected to one of the hemisphere's largest <i>pseudoephedrine</i> trafficking networks. In <i>Colombia</i>, prosecutors are about to arrest the <i>Magdalena</i> governor for links with Hernan <i>Giraldo</i>, one of the largest <i>drug-traffickers</i> in Colombia, In <i>Dubai</i>, 21 <i>Indians</i> are held after an <i>hawala</i> [underground <i>money-laundering</i>] network is busted. <i>Brazil</i> will build a mile-long <i>wall</i> on the <i>Paraguay</i> border near the "<i>Friendship Bridge</i>" in the "<i>Tri-border</i>" area.
2007 Mar 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DPRK</i> may have created its own monster -- there is evidence that the <i>narcotics</i> and <i>counterfeiting</i> enterprises it created now have a life of their own. A <i>Department of State</i> document is a useful checklist of the world-wide <i>narcotics</i> situation -- Release of the 2007 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report. <i>Guatemala</i> has asked the <i>US</i> for assistance in <i>counter-narcotics</i> efforts -- only 50 of 401 [12%] elite <i>narcotics agents</i> passed <i>drug and lie-detector tests</i>.
2007 Mar 05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An operation across several <i>US</i> states netted more than <u>\$45 million</u> in <i>cash</i> and tons of <i>cocaine</i>, <i>heroin</i> and <i>marijuana</i> related to a <i>Mexican cartel</i>. Another report observed that "<i>Colombian narcotics</i> organizations have ceded more and more of the <i>transportation</i> and <i>distribution</i> of drugs to <i>Mexican</i> organizations ..."
2007 Feb 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>FBI</i> embarks on a public education program on <i>organized crime</i> -- Organized crime today: The New Cast of Characters
2007 Feb 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Feb 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luis <i>Correa</i> has been removed as head of <i>Venezuela's National Anti-drug Office</i>. Assailants gunned down seven <i>police</i> in <i>Acapulco</i> -- <i>drug cartels</i> continue their war against <i>Mexico's</i> police; and win. The <i>US</i> along with <i>El Salvador</i>, <i>Honduras</i>, <i>Guatemala</i> and <i>Belize</i> have a new initiative that includes "setting up a <i>transnational anti-gang unit (TAG)</i>" to combat cross-border gangs. "<i>As a general rule, the guys who have more status in the gangs in El Salvador are the ones who have been deported from the United States.</i>"
2007 Feb 05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In <i>Colombia</i>, a tip-off under the reward system led police to a further stash of \$19 million in hard cash, bringing to almost <u>\$80 million</u> the amount of <i>drug cash</i> seized in recent weeks. <i>Cocaine</i> is the key industry on <i>Nicaragua's Caribbean</i> coast -- "<i>on the islands, entire communities provide logistics support for the narcos.... Everybody is involved, one way or the other. Everybody.</i>" Another anti-violence, anti-<i>cartel</i> campaigner has been killed in <i>Mexico</i>, reflecting again the total <i>impunity of drug gangs</i>. <i>Money laundering</i> of <i>drug</i> money [Afghan opiates] in <i>Pakistan</i> is estimated at <u>\$2B</u> to <u>\$4B</u> annually.
2007 Jan 29	<p>↓ 1.5 tons of <i>cocaine</i> was seized in the western coastal state of <i>Falcón</i> [<i>Venezuela</i>] was seized awaiting shipment <i>Netherlands Antilles</i>, thence to the <i>Netherlands</i>.</p> <p>The <i>Army</i> alone won't stop <i>Mexico</i> drug violence says the <i>UN</i> -- coordinator of a <i>UN</i> study described the murky rules and infrastructure of <i>Mexico's criminal justice system</i> as "an invitation to corruption." <i>Drug use</i> in <i>Mexico</i> increasing is now at "truly alarming rates" -- disruption of trafficking to the <i>US</i> has "<i>focused organized criminal groups more toward the domestic market</i>". A <i>journalist</i> is missing (again) in <i>Mexico</i> after writing a story of local drug identities.</p> <p><i>Afghanistan</i> produces 90% of the world's <i>diamorphine</i> (heroin) and the government is refusing, this year at least, to <i>spray</i> the crops with <i>herbicides</i>. The <i>National Health Service</i> in <i>UK</i> says it could use some of the production from <i>Afghan</i> poppies -- junkies can get all they want, but the <i>UK</i> health system can not get enough</p>



2007 Jan 22	<p><i>diamorphine</i> (otherwise known as <i>heroin</i>). [Why is this? <i>Qui bono?</i>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key findings from the McAfee Virtual Criminology Report 2006 indicates organised crime elements are systematically recruiting youth with high-end <i>cyber</i> skills. <i>see Changing face of cybercrime</i> <p>The US says Colombia may be a "good model" for Afghanistan in its illicit <i>opium</i> industry -- "<i>I think those kinds of outreach programs by the Colombian government are good models for President Karzai to consider ...</i>"</p> <p>Mexico starts deporting <i>drug lords</i> to the US - "<i>Organized crime is getting out of control</i>" says Mexico's president. In Puerto Rico, authorities consider calling in the National Guard to confront <i>gun battles</i> between <i>drug gangs</i> that have caused a rash of killings. Capture by Colombian police of Eugenio Montoya, probable boss of the <i>Norte del Valle</i> group, ends a lengthy manhunt in which the US had offered a \$5m reward. Subsequently, police unearthed \$54M of <i>Norte de Valle</i> reserve <i>cash</i> and <i>gold ingots</i>. Jose Miguel Battle Sr, boss of "<i>The Corporation</i>" a Cuban-American <i>crime syndicate</i> that stretched from Florida to New York to <i>Latin America</i> was awarded a 20 year sentence for racketeering in a Miami federal court.</p> <p>Thailand's "<i>first legal wiretap</i>" has led to the bust of a Bangkok-based <i>heroin</i> ring - "<i>...trafficking organisation that processed drugs from Pakistan and Afghanistan through a storefront in Thailand has been busted...</i>"</p> <p>The FBI notes that significant numbers of <i>gang members</i> are joining the US military -- "<i>The military enlistment of gang members could ultimately lead to the worldwide expansion of U.S.-based gangs.</i>"</p>
2007 Jan 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police seized \$20 million in <i>cocaine</i> in suburban <i>Philadelphia</i>. Despite ongoing Mexican military and federal police operations, killings in <i>Tijuana</i> continue unabated.
2007 Jan 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Hong Kong, police rounded up 101 suspected <i>triad</i> gang members. Mexico has moved to crack down on <i>drug crime</i> which killed some 2,000 people in 2006 in violence between rival drug cartels; the navy patrolled off <i>Tijuana</i>; 4,000 military and state police and federal police entered Tijuana and disarmed the local police.
2007 Jan 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Colombia, unknown gunmen killed a former <i>drug-related militia</i> boss -- <i>extrajudicial killing</i> of extrajudicial killers ...
2006 Dec 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Italian anti-<i>Mafia</i> operation has netted <i>women</i> bosses among those arrested -- "The arrested include eight women believed to have taken up leading posts within the local <i>Valentini</i> clan." Bolivia is to expand the area permitted to grow <i>coca</i> -- Bolivia is the world's third-largest <i>coca</i> producer after Colombia and Peru -- the US is the biggest market for illicit derivatives. Colombia holds the first major hearing in its version of a <i>Truth and Reconciliation Commission</i> with paramilitary leader Salvatore Mancuso, a top Colombian warlord who must tell the truth about his past deeds in return for almost complete immunity. Mexican troops and police have destroyed 1,795 <i>marijuana</i> fields in <i>Michoacán</i> state, making an impact of about \$8.2M (wholesale) or \$600M (retail) on <i>drug cartels</i>. China has reported finding more <i>underground banks</i> -- <i>money laundering</i> is said by some to be now rampant. A well-documented tale of false flags and satanic alliances confirming that reality is far more interesting than fiction ... <i>Litvinenko's Death: Where the Far Right Meets International Crime</i>
2006 Dec 18	<p>↓ Mexican federal police are pulling back from <i>Oaxaca</i> seven weeks after they arrived to put an end to months of civil protest. Mexico has launched a crackdown on <i>organized crime drug gangs</i>; feuds between rival cartels have caused 3,000 deaths in the last two years; but there are skeptics -- "<i>When the soldiers leave, the problems will continue This is just for the cameras.</i>" <i>Online banking fraud</i> is up year-on-</p>



	<p>year <u>8,000%</u> -- the criminals behind "phishing" scams are becoming increasingly "industrialized" in their approach. A UN panel will investigate mob crime in Guatemala -- "Some organized crime groups are believed to be made up of former military members who fought in Guatemala's 36-year civil war that left about 200,000 dead."</p>
2006 Dec 11	<p>↓ Experts said spammers (often the first step in a criminal scam) are moving 'too fast' to be tackled by existing methods - The war is lost unless there is "<i>meaningful cooperation across different jurisdictions</i>". Crime gangs are recruiting students as 'sleepers' for a range of internet theft scams. Colombian paramilitaries have pulled out of the peace and reconciliation process with the government after the government transferred 59 rightist warlords from a relatively comfortable prison to a high-security installation. In China, several are charged with producing 17 tonne of methamphetamine at a pesticide plant in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region (adjoining Inner Mongolia). [There is an immense and growing market in southeast Asia for crystal meth where it is known as <i>shabu</i> (or <i>siabu</i>).] Methamphetamine (<i>ice</i>, <i>crystal meth</i>) is becoming the commodity of choice among western Mexico's drug cartels; see a <i>survey</i> by <i>Mexidata.info</i> ♦http://www.mexidata.info/id1165.html♦</p>
2006 Dec 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Colombia, special forces and other troops were used to transfer 59 paramilitaries to a maximum-security prison fearing an escape plot. It is claimed former director of Colombia's FBI (DAS) ordered information compromising agents of the US DEA be leaked to drug traffickers. A comprehensive report from Amnesty details connections in Colombia, from the intelligence service to the legislature, with army-backed paramilitaries accused of atrocities. Technology observers say "It is clear that malware is increasingly being released by professional and organized criminals." There are now fewer "hackers" than high-stakes thieves.
2006 Nov 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A senior UK police officer says it costs \$23K [or less] to give an addict heroin, but an addict must steal \$82k a year to buy heroin from criminals. [Do the math.] Experts say Organized Crime is 'everywhere' in the Russian energy sector -- "from oil rigs and gas stations to major oil companies."
2006 Nov 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to report]
2006 Nov 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to report]
2006 Nov 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN countries and China resolve to cooperate in tackling traditional transnational crime and new crime involving amphetamine throughout Asia.
2006 Oct 30	<p>↓ Crime gangs have hacked customer accounts at several US online stock brokers, including e*Trade, and made off with millions. Before joining the EU, Bulgaria recognizes it will need to make great inroads on organized crime, which account for as much as <u>36%</u> of the Bulgarian economy.</p>
2006 Oct 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to a Colombian senator "narco-paramilitaries" in the country are far from neutralized. In unrelated events, over \$10M in cash and \$6.5M in narcotics were seized and 26 arrested in Colombia, Florida and New York.
2006 Oct 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to report]
2006 Oct 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have now been 15 decapitation murders in Michoacan [Mexico] over recent weeks attributed to organized drug gangs.
2006 Oct 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With guilty pleas in a US court, the Cali Cartel is finished, but "We're moving into a whole new phase of the drug war, because they are decentralizing, smaller and harder to catch than their predecessors."
2006 Sep 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to report]
2006 Sep 18	<p>↓ Gunmen rolling five human heads across a dance floor is indicative of the recent heightened violence of Mexican drug gangs with US connections. The UK says sophisticated cyber scams are increasingly run by organized crime syndicates for</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> profit, not by “hackers”. A gathering on <i>narcotics</i> enforcement in Asia heard the landscape has suddenly changed ... large-scale smuggling of heroin and cocaine, amphetamines is now “rampant” in the region. The National Security agency in Sri Lanka said the analysis of the synergy between <i>drug trafficking</i> and <i>insurgency</i> financing by the <i>LTTE</i> is of broader interest of use elsewhere.
2006 Sep 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to report]
2006 Sep 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ This year’s Afghan opium crop is sufficient to produce 130% of the world’s heroin demand.
2006 Aug 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay have located a <i>transnational crime center</i> at the junction of the three borders — Zimbabwe has assumed the chair of the <i>Eastern and Southern Africa Money Laundering Group</i> — a Philippines expert says the actions of transnational crime and terrorism are increasingly similar.
2006 Aug 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to report]
2006 Aug 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ A veteran investigative reporter’s murder almost certainly by <i>drug</i> gangs confirms Mexico as "one of the most dangerous places in the Western Hemisphere to be a journalist".
2006 Aug 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ A new specialised UK police unit said transnational crime, fuelled by drug revenue, is 'increasing in both scope and complexity'.
2006 Jul 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ The first report by the UK Serious Organised Crime Agency gave a sketch of the current state of transnational crime – drug supply is improving (street prices are dropping), it is diversifying into new areas such as <i>child pornography - prisons</i> continue to be one of its best training assets, and it is making skilful use of the <i>internet</i>. In short, it is “increasing in both scope and complexity”.
2006 Jul 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK proposed legislation to tackle organised crime that would wield powers similar to the <i>Anti-Social Behaviour Orders</i> (ASBOs) already used against young trouble-makers.
2006 Jul 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to report]
2006 Jul 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to report]
2006 Jul 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to report]
Commencement of Service	

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