

The role of the International Criminal Police Organization as a mechanism in combating organized crime

MUSAB TURKI IBRAHIM NASSAR¹

1. Assistant Professor in criminal law, Qatar police Academy- police College,
Email: mnassar@moi.gov.qa, nassarmusab@outlook.com

Abstract:

Organized crime has witnessed remarkable development, especially in our current time, as a result of technological progress that has contributed significantly to its diversity and taking on new dimensions. It is often committed by organized groups using various and advanced means, thus transcending regional borders to include several neighboring or distant regions, as it is a cross-border crime. In view of the comprehensive threat it poses to various countries in their security and basic interests, it was necessary to find international mechanisms to combat it, the most important of which is the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), which is one of the most important international organizations active in the field of combating organized crime, due to its effective role in tracking, arresting and handing over the perpetrators of these crimes to the competent authorities to try and punish them for committing them, by ensuring international cooperation and coordination between the police agencies in the member states of this organization.

Therefore, this paper addresses the efforts of the International Criminal Police Organization in combating transnational organized crime, by highlighting its role, as well as the methods and means it uses in this regard.

Keywords:AntiInternational Criminal Police Organizationorganized crime.

introduction:

Transnational organized crime has become one of the most dangerous crimes at the international and national levels. Considering that it threatens the security of countries and their social, economic and even political stability, various countries and international organizations, including the International Criminal Police Organization, or what is currently known as "Interpol", have been constantly searching for ways to combat and prevent it. In this regard, this organization is one of the oldest forms of police cooperation in the field of combating organized crime, as it aims primarily to ensure cooperation and coordination between countries in order to track down criminals, arrest them and hand them over to the competent authorities for punishment.

Given the rise in the levels and degrees of transnational organized crime, as a result of technological development in all fields, as well as the emergence of globalization, which has contributed to the elimination of borders between countries, and thus the globalization of crime, which has led to an attempt to intensify international and national efforts with the aim of combating this crime, which has become one of the greatest challenges facing all countries of the world, and accordingly this paper attempts to investigate the following problem:

What are the efforts of the International Criminal Police Organization in combating organized crime?

To answer the problem, we relied on the descriptive approach as well as the analytical approach according to what the nature of the topic required, according to the following division:

Section One: Conceptual control of study terms

First requirement: International Criminal Police Organization

The second requirement: organized crime

Section Two: The efforts of the International Criminal Police Organization in the field of combating organized crime

First requirement: The role of the International Criminal Police Organization in combating organized crime

The second requirement: The methods and means of the International Criminal Police Organization in combating organized crime

The first topic:Conceptual control of study terms

Understanding the concept of something is essential for an accurate approach to it, and is considered an important and precise step that helps to clarify the meaning of the term. Therefore, we will try to address defining the meaning of both the International Criminal Police Organization and organized crime in the following:

First requirement: International Criminal Police Organization

This organization is one of the “specialized international organizations that are concerned with international cooperation between its member states in combating crime and tracking down criminals who are able to cross the borders of the state in which they committed their crimes and flee to another state.”¹

Most experts trace the true beginning of the establishment of the International Criminal Police Organization to the year 1923 at the Vienna Conference at the invitation of the Vienna Police Chief, where the conference decided to establish the International Criminal Police Commission with its headquarters in Vienna. The Commission continued its work based on the exchange of information between the member states of the Commission, especially in the field of combating drugs, until the outbreak of World War II, when the Commission ceased its work.² In 1946, the International Police Conference was held in Brussels at the invitation of the Belgian police. A new constitution was drawn up for the International Criminal Police Commission and its headquarters were moved to Paris. In 1956, it took its current name, “International Criminal Police Organization,” and its abbreviated name, “Interpol.”³ After its General Assembly, at its twenty-fifth session held on 7-13 June in Vienna, established the basic law of the organization, which entered into force as of 13 June 1956, in accordance with Article 50 thereof.⁴, which was amended in 2008.

Article 4 states: (4) From the Organization's Basic Law of 1956 Average in 2008 Membership is open to all countries, which confirms the global nature of membership in this organization, so it now includes 194 member countries, making it the largest police organization in the world.⁵ According to Article Two (2) of its statute, the organization aims to: “1- Confirm and encourage mutual assistance on the widest possible scale between the competent criminal authorities within the limits of the laws and regulations in force in the member states, 2- Issue and develop decisions and regulations that contribute effectively to preventing and combating crimes under public law.”⁶

Thus, it is clear that the organization aims to achieve cooperation between the competent security agencies and issue the necessary decisions and regulations to prevent and combat crimes of public law, including drug trafficking, but its practice of its activities is restricted by respect for what is stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

According to Article (31) of the Organization's Basic Law, in order to achieve its objectives, members must make all efforts consistent with the laws of their countries to participate in the Organization's activities. The Organization may also establish relations and cooperation with other international organizations, governmental or non-governmental, whenever it finds this appropriate and not in conflict with the objectives stipulated in its Basic Law, according to Article (41) thereof.

The organization therefore plays a fundamental role in encouraging international police cooperation aimed at combating crime and tracking down its perpetrators, as the organization's work covers many specialized areas such as arms smuggling, drug production and illicit trafficking.⁷ Smuggling of goods, theft, slave trafficking, theft of works of art and antiquities, counterfeiting, financial crimes and terrorism crimes. The organization's tasks in this field focus on collecting data and information about the crime and its perpetrators in all countries, and cooperating with security agencies in all countries with the aim of tracking down and arresting fugitive criminals. The organization also specializes in search, investigation and detection of cybercrimes in general, especially the Internet and its perpetrators, as it is considered one of the new types of organized crime, by tracking and seizing digital evidence, in addition to carrying out cross-border inspections of logical computer components, information systems and communication networks, to search for evidence they may contain of committing a cybercrime.⁸

The principles are: The main objectives of the organization, which were enshrined in its amended statute in 2008, are:

- Respect for the national sovereignty of the member states of the organization.
- Implementing the decisions of its General Assembly.
- Equality of rights and obligations among all member states within the organization.

The organization is prohibited from any activity related to issues of a political, military, religious or racial nature.⁹

- Contributing to the organization's finances. In all international organizations, the primary financial resource is the financial contributions paid by member states.¹⁰

The organization consists of several bodies according to the text of Article 5 of its Charter, which are: the General Assembly, the Executive Committee, the General Secretariat, the National Central Offices, the Advisors, and the Permanent Committee for Information Technology.

The second requirement: organized crime

Organized crime is defined as: “a diverse and complex crime of criminal activities and rapid, large-scale operations, related to many illegal goods and services, dominated by very powerful and organized gangs, including thousands of criminals of different nationalities, and carried out with a great deal of professionalism,

continuity and brutal force, and aimed at achieving financial gain and gaining power and influence using many different methods.”¹¹.

Article (2) of the United Nations Convention on Organized Crime of 2000 defined it as follows: “A- The term “organized criminal group” means a group with an organizational structure consisting of three or more persons existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes and offences established in accordance with this Convention, and in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit. B- The term “serious crime” means conduct constituting an offence punishable by total deprivation of liberty for a period of not less than four years or by a more severe penalty.”

As defined by the International Criminal Police Organization at the first international symposium held in France in 1988, which was devoted to the subject of organized crime, it provided a broad definition in which it considered that: “Organized crime is any project or group of persons that continuously engage in illegal activity and whose primary motive is to obtain profits without regard to national borders.”¹².

Thus, organized crime is “a criminal enterprise with a gradual and well-organized structure that engages in illegal activities with the aim of achieving an illegal material goal, or harming the strategic interests and public security of a country or a number of countries, using violence, force and corruption.”¹³.

The most important characteristics of organized crime, on which there is almost agreement among specialists in the legal field, are planning, organization, complexity and secrecy, professionalism and continuity, the ability to employ and extort, society’s coexistence with the phenomenon of organized crime, excessive financial gain, and the use of violence, intimidation, terrorism and bribery as means of organized crime.¹⁴.

Section Two: The efforts of the International Criminal Police Organization in the field of combating organized crime

The efforts of the International Criminal Police Organization are evident through the roles assigned to it in the field of combating organized crime, as well as through the methods and means it uses for this purpose, which we will try to address below:

First requirement: The role of the International Criminal Police Organization in combating organized crime

The International Criminal Police Organization has contributed effectively to the fight against crime by providing its member states with important information about criminals wanted for justice. In recent years, its focus has been on organized crime and all related criminal activities.¹⁵.

And This organization has paid special attention to combating organized crime by taking many decisions at the level of the General Assembly. Interpol decision (AGN/62/RES/8), which was adopted by the General Assembly at its (62) session in 1993, and related to international cooperation and the fight against organized crime. The General Assembly also declared at its (67) session in 1998 that combating crime is one of the priorities of the International Police in carrying out the important role represented in coordinating international police cooperation against organized crime, and Interpol is responsible for. For example, it plays an important role in combating illicit drug trafficking across countries, and specialized units have been allocated to this crime as it is one of the most important activities of organized crime.¹⁶.

The organization undertakes a set of measures to combat crime, through the brochures prepared by the General Secretariat regarding persons wanted for their involvement in criminal organizations. These brochures include photographs, fingerprints, pseudonyms and identity details of these persons, and these brochures are distributed to all Interpol national central bureaus in member states.;

Interpol also has an important role in combating currency counterfeiting, as it is a major activity of organized crime. In this regard, Interpol holds international conferences to combat currency counterfeiting, in which it highlights the scale of this crime as well as the modern methods used in it.;

Interpol also has an important role in combating technology-related crime, human trafficking and illicit drug trafficking across countries. Specialised units have been allocated to these crimes as they are among the most important activities of organised crime.¹⁷.

In 1999, a specialized unit was established in the General Secretariat of Interpol to combat organized crime, which was entrusted with the task of implementing the organization’s policy to combat this crime by providing member states with various information regarding criminal organizations, money laundering and suspects, and preparing studies on this crime. The most important tasks of this unit are:

- Creating a mechanism for exchanging information and documents on criminal persons and organizations around the world.;
- Publish and distribute daily reports or information and international announcements.;
- Organizing conferences to study the phenomenon of organized crime, and strengthening cooperation between member states.¹⁸.

It is worth noting that Interpol has focused its activities on organized crime and related criminal activities such as money laundering. Interpol currently operates a secure wireless communications network

covering the entire world, linking member states through their main national offices with each other and with the Interpol Secretariat in France. This network facilitates the rapid transfer of electronic messages, including written messages, photographs, fingerprints, etc. The network transmits more than 2 million messages each year, and provides the basic facilities for implementing the organization's work. In addition to the secure communications network, Interpol established in 1989 an Organized Crime Branch attached to the General Secretariat to study various aspects related to organized crime and create a comprehensive information base for criminal organizations and groups of individuals involved in illegal and ongoing activity to achieve illegal profits. The available information is regularly analyzed to determine the relationship, organizational structure, and membership of organized crime gangs across countries, thus paralyzing their movement.¹⁹

In 1993, Interpol established the Criminal Information Analysis Unit, which was also attached to the General Secretariat, to develop a comprehensive method for analyzing crime functionally and professionally, using standardized methods that cooperate with the police force of the General Secretariat and member states. Crime analysis methods define a standardized approach aimed at extracting the greatest amount of relevant information from the vast body of information collected from multiple sources. In 1994, the Criminal Information Analysis Unit drafted and distributed a comprehensive guide on the methodology of crime analysis.²⁰

The second requirement: The methods and means of the International Criminal Police Organization in combating organized crime

The roles played by Interpol in combating crime can be activated through the activities carried out by the organization in the field of international security cooperation to combat crime, such as holding seminars and conferences, such as those held on drug crimes, verifying criminals and revealing the identity of corpses. The unknown Training of crime-fighting personnel in various member states by holding specialized seminars in the countries, producing educational tools and films in the field of combating illicit drug trafficking crimes and other crimes of an international nature, publishing criminal research, studies and statistics related to crime trends, activity and rates, etc.²¹

Interpol also calls on countries to adopt domestic legislation that includes effective means to combat crime. At the 64th session of the Interpol General Assembly in 1995, a unanimous decision was taken to issue a declaration on combating money laundering. This decision recommends the necessity of adopting domestic legislation in member countries, including the following issues:

- Criminal conviction of persons who intentionally participate in the crimes of laundering the proceeds of serious criminal activities;
- Allowing the tracking of funds and granting sufficient investigative authority to law enforcement officials in order to track, monitor and freeze capital obtained from criminal activity.;
- Allowing banks and financial institutions to report unusual and suspicious trading.;
- Requiring financial institutions to retain for at least five (5) years after the conclusion of the transaction all necessary records on local and international transactions, with the aim of enabling member states to adequately investigate money laundering, and supporting international cooperation by enabling member states to respond to requests submitted to them regarding those records.;
- Allowing the urgent extradition of individuals accused of money laundering crimes.;
- Publishing research and studies through the Interpol Library;
- Publishing criminal statistics, as the organization publishes these statistics related to crime trends, activities and rates.²²
- Taking measures to prevent the use of information and communications technology in money laundering.;
- The need for the agencies concerned with monitoring and supervising banks and financial institutions to ensure that these agencies have sufficient programs to combat money laundering.;
- Interpol's cooperation with Arab and Islamic countries in the field of extradition of criminals and confiscation of illicit funds²³.

In the field of combating illicit drug trafficking across countries INTERPOL provides operational support, analysis and training to help national police combat large-scale drug trafficking. We assist national, regional and international law enforcement agencies to combat the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of drugs by:

- Global operations to combat drug trafficking and assist in ongoing investigations;
- Forensic analysis of intelligence data on drug trafficking routes;
- The relevant criminal methods and the criminal networks involved;
- Comprehensive training for police around the world to better combat drug trafficking²⁴.

And We note in this regard that The organization It is Observer member of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, participated in many preliminary works and in the discussions and preparation of the 1961 and 1971 conventions, and strengthened cooperation with many organizations and governments.²⁵ In April 2018, INTERPOL held the first global conference on combating illicit drugs in Spain, which brought together

representatives from more than 100 countries. The meeting provided participants with an opportunity to discuss and review recent developments in this field, and the consequences of the overlap between drug trafficking and other criminal activities such as money laundering and arms trafficking.²⁶

AndPracticeThe organizationIts primary work is to combat organized crime through the use of various technical means in that field, the most important of which are the Interpol global communications system, bulletins, and other means..

As for the INTERPOL global communications system, the importance of effective cross-border police communications has increased more than ever before as national borders become increasingly meaningless to criminals. One of INTERPOL's missions is to enable police agencies around the world to exchange information in a secure and effective manner. INTERPOL has developed the 24/7 Global Police Communications System to connect law enforcement agencies in member countries, allowing authorized users to exchange important police data with each other and access the organization's databases and services around the clock. The system allows investigators to link information that at first glance appears unrelated, but which facilitates investigations and helps solve crimes. Accordingly, this system includes information on criminals, travel documents, stolen vehicles, fingerprints, stolen artwork, and more. In 2003, Canada became the first country to be connected to this system, and to date, all member states have been connected. Although the system is primarily installed in national central offices, several countries have decided to also install it in strategic locations such as border crossings, airports, and customs offices. The ability to connect to the 24/7 system will help police in their daily activities. To combat organized crime, it aims to:

- Assisting an immigration officer at the airport to identify a passport that had been reported stolen from a traveler.;
- Enabling the border officer to conduct a search on a motor vehicle's number plate to verify whether it has been reported stolen.;
- Alert national authorities to wanted persons attempting to enter the country by air or sea.²⁷.

This system provides a set of databases, including:

- Nominal database: It includes information about internationally known criminals, missing persons, and corpses, as well as their criminal records, photos, fingerprints, and other data.;
- Stolen and Lost Travel Documents Database: Includes information on more than 15 million travel documents reported stolen or lost by approximately 125 countries. This database allows national offices and other law enforcement agencies to instantly verify the validity of a suspicious travel document in seconds.;
- Database of stolen administrative documents: It includes information on 185,000 administrative documents, and is used to identify documents such as vehicle registration cards and customs clearance certificates for import and export.;
- Stolen Vehicle Database: Provides comprehensive details on approximately 3.9 million vehicles reported stolen worldwide.;
- Stolen Works of Art Database: which allows Member States to investigate records relating to more than 31,000 works of art and cultural property reported stolen around the world.;
- Traits baseDNAThis database helps in identifying missing persons and unidentified bodies, and this is done through the genetic characteristics of each individual.;
- Fingerprint database: It includes information transmitted directly, whether by scanning or bringing electronic files, in addition to fingerprints of unknown fingers raised from crime scenes.;
- Child Sexual Abuse Image Database: This database contains hundreds of thousands of images transmitted by Member States and has helped investigators identify and rescue more than 550 victims around the world.²⁸.

As for notices, Interpol works to assist police forces in its countries in exchanging important information related to organized crime using the international Interpol notice system. The information exchanged relates to persons wanted for committing serious crimes, as well as missing persons, bodies that need to be identified, potential threats and criminal methods. These notices come in several types:

- **Red Notice: This is a request to arrest or temporarily detain a person who is being sought, pending his extradition, based on an arrest warrant.;**
- **Blue Notice: This is to collect additional information about a person's identity or illegal activities in the context of a criminal case.;**
- **Green Bulletin: This is to provide warnings about people who have committed criminal offences and are likely to commit similar offences in other countries.;**
- **Yellow Notice: This is used to help locate missing persons, especially minors, or to identify people who are unable to identify themselves.;**
- **Black Bulletin: For information on unidentified bodies;**
- **INTERPOL Special Notice: To alert police to groups and individuals subject to UN sanctions against Al-Qaida;**
- **Orange Bulletin: To warn the police, as well as public bodies and international organizations, of dangerous materials, events or criminal acts that may pose a danger to the public.²⁹.**

The organization issued about 4,556 notices in 2006, which represents an increase of about 60 percent compared to 2005, indicating the increasing size of organized crime in the international community. We note that these notices are published in its own system, and can be published on the general website of Interpol to obtain information about the person from the public. It is also worth noting that these notices include two types of information:

- Full identity details, physical description, photo, fingerprint and occupation.;
- Judicial information such as the charge against the person and the law under which the charge is stated.³⁰.

Among the means also used by the International Criminal Police Organization are circulars, which are a message sent by the National Central Bureau to some or all of the member states through the 24/7 system to request the arrest of a person, to determine his location, or to request additional information in connection with a police investigation. 12,212 circulars were published in 2006, in addition to another type of means, which are booklets used to facilitate the identification of wanted persons or tools used in crimes. Among these booklets we mention:

- A booklet on expressing numbers in writing Chinese names;
- A booklet containing information related to license plates in different countries and their pictures.;
- Brochures on weapon ammunition specifications and sources of manufacture³¹.

It is worth noting that the 16th International Congress on Criminal Law held in 1999 in Budapest pointed to the remarkable development in the field of police cooperation to combat crime through the use of new means and channels of communication between several countries. It also pointed to cooperation with regional police agencies such as Iropol in Europe, as well as the use of modern technology such as the cross-border surveillance system via satellite.³².

conclusion:

The International Criminal Police Organization is a key body in achieving international cooperation in combating organized crime. Through studying the role of the International Criminal Police Organization as a mechanism in combating organized crime, we reached a set of results and recommendations, which were:

First: Results

- Countries and international organizations strive to cooperate with each other to combat transnational organized crime, through holding seminars, conferences, international agreements, and establishing international bodies such as the International Criminal Police Organization, which is one of the oldest forms of police cooperation to confront this dangerous phenomenon.

- The International Criminal Police Organization is one of the most important successful and effective international organizations in its field at the international level, as it seeks to combat organized crime through its contribution to achieving international cooperation between police agencies in all member states, and issuing many important decisions in this regard, tracking down criminals, arresting them and handing them over, in addition to its role in combating money laundering, illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, etc.

The organization carries out its role through its various activities, such as: holding seminars and conferences, investigating criminals, revealing the identity of unidentified bodies, training crime-fighting workers in member states, producing means and films to combat various crimes, and calling on states to adopt internal legislation that includes effective means to combat crime. It carries out its work by using specific means represented by the Interpol global communications system, bulletins, and other means (such as circulars and brochures).

Despite the efforts made to combat organized crime, the latter remains insufficient, given the increasing level and degrees of cross-border organized crime, especially in our current era, which has been accompanied by the development of communications and information technology, which has contributed in one way or another to the development of crime and the difficulty of combating it, making it a major challenge for all countries.

Second: Recommendations

Countries and international organizations should work to organize seminars and conferences and conclude international agreements in the field of combating this crime.

- Calling on all countries of the world to ratify international agreements related to combating this phenomenon and to join various international organizations active in this field to achieve international cooperation.
- States should appreciate the role of the International Criminal Police Organization in combating organized crime, in recognition of its efforts that have greatly contributed to reducing the severity of this crime, to encourage it to continue doing so and provide more.
- Instilling religious and moral awareness in the souls of individuals to reduce the size and degree of crime, by creating and following an effective educational system at the level of the family, school, religious institutions and various civil society institutions, based on rejecting violence and fanaticism and working to spread the

culture of tolerance and religious and cultural coexistence, guaranteeing rights and freedoms and spreading the values and principles of democracy and justice.

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