

2016: ten arguments on criminal globalization in the foreseeable future

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1 – We take "foreseeable future" to mean the next five years (2011-2016).

2 – If nothing is done (and so far the "international community" has done little), the world—including developed countries—will see a *second wave of crime* in the next five years, which will exacerbate global "gangsterisation".

• In any event, one thing is now certain: we can no longer consider "terrorism" (in its various guises) as a separate entity, different from other global threats and dangers. An ability to effectively understand and combat the enemies we will face in 2016, means acting together now to identify (as "new threats" or some similar concept) the different strains of terrorism and organised crime, along with all their derivative hybrids.

3 – In its first decade (1990-2000), globalisation *visibly* gave rise to spectacular waves of terrorist backlash-attacks. What provoked these events was not capitalism itself, but the pervasive liberal-libertarian ideology that it often promotes¹. Horrified by what they saw as the commercial-pornographic apocalypse breaking upon them—and fearing their imminent end—enraged illuminati, puritan fanatics and fragile fundamentalists retaliated through terror: examples include *Salafi-jihadists*², the Aum Shinrikyo (Buddhist) sect, radical US evangelists, etc.

¹ Universalism ("open society", claiming to be the sole legitimate point of reference, the only one able to ensure humanity's moral progress), moral relativism (permissive society, individual choice decreed the only sacred value, The self absorbed by the physical body, etc.).

² The first attack on World Trade Center in February 1993; the Tokyo Metro in March 1995; Oklahoma City attack in April 1995.

4 – At the same time, major criminal trafficking—in human beings, drugs, arms, stolen vehicles, art, natural resources, various types of counterfeits and more—was quietly going global. Overlooked by leaders and by world opinion, this "dark side of globalisation" slipped under the radar, compounded by the fact that, then:

- . Visually striking displays of terrorism took up the lion's share of international media coverage of "the bad guys",

- . The traffickers, the trafficked and the traffic were lost amid massive migratory flows³.

5 – Having failed to anticipate the rise of globalised crime in time, world leaders began to realise its severe consequences only a decade down the road... when the events of September 11th exploded in the public eye.

6 – The effects of this unprecedented attack went beyond even bin Laden's wildest dreams, when Washington launched its "war on terror": the world was drawn into a ten-year game of terrorism-anti-terrorism affecting the entire Islamic crescent from Mauritania to Mindanao, doubtless creating as many jihadists as it eliminates. For the past ten years (and it is not over, since American officialdom remains mesmerized by the jihadists⁴), this clumsy, endless "war" has warped into a nosocomial infection (where the sickness stems from the treatment itself or the environment in which it is administered)⁵.

³ In 2010, migration around the world involved some 214 million people, representing a 37% increase in 20 years (up 37% in Europe and 80% in North America). In 2009, related financial flows totalled US\$317 billion: three times more than development-aid funding.

⁴ See President Obama's *National Security Strategy* (May 2010) or the *Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence* by Admiral Dennis C. Blair, former Director of National Intelligence (February 2010). Two publications crucial to global security policy, each of which having around 48 out of 50 pages obsessed with Osama bin Laden and his cohorts.

⁵ *Le Figaro - New York Times*, 2/07/2010: "Combattre le terrorisme crée des terroristes."

7 – With a tangible lassitude (stemming from 32 years of "Holy War"...) weakening the *Salafi*-jihadist movement, the obsession with Osama bin Laden nonetheless led Washington to make worrying analytical missteps in Afghanistan and Iraq: a war to resist an invasion waged by Muslim tribes on the one hand; a bellicose global jihad on the other—are in fact two very different types of conflict that really should not be confused...

8 – During this second decade of obsession with terrorism, globalised crime has steadily worsened, driven by the short-sighted vision shared by world leaders, nations and international organisations: wealthier, more active criminal groups have emerged, new parts of the world have been infected, flows have broadened and proliferated. This ongoing failure by the "international community" to recognise cross-border organised crime as the number-one danger facing the world, by far, has provoked today's consummate catastrophe. Around the globe (in places like Northern Mexico, the Gulf of Guinea's coastline, Somalia, Timor-Leste⁶ Haiti, Karachi's urban sprawl, and the favelas of Brazil), failed states, anarchic megacities, and huge swathes of "informal settlements" (shantytowns)⁷, are falling into the hands of criminals (cartels and mega-gangs) and hybrid entities (degenerate guerrillas).

9 – Given the indifference on the part of major powers, at least up until the recent anguished cry from the UN ⁸, the influence of organised crime (in emerging countries) over their fiefs and diasporas (in developed countries) serves only to

⁶ See the insightful article in *Courrier International*, 3/06/2010: "Timor Oriental - à Dili, les gangs font la loi" ("Timor-Leste – In Dili, gangs rule")

⁷ At year-end 2009, 830 million of the world's people were still living in urban slums (UN-Habitat report on the "State of the World's Cities 2010/2011", March 2010); that figure is growing by six million people a year as a result of rapid urban growth in poorer countries.

⁸ *Le Monde*, 19/06/2010: "Globalisé, le crime organisé menace la souveraineté des Etats, selon les Nations-Unies" ("Globalised organised crime threatens the sovereignty of states, according to the United Nations"). Criminals who are "clearly neglected" by major powers, despite representing a "threat to the peace, development and even sovereignty of nations" are now capable of "buying elections, politicians, power and even the military."

swell the second wave of globalised crime, and has been doing so since around 2008.

10 – Seven major trends in the second wave of globalised crime:

a) One way or another, the United States is heading towards decriminalising local-individual cannabis commerce and consumption. Through this "topsy-turvy prohibition", the US hopes to trivialise and therefore eliminate a problem that has become unmanageable. But in its attempt to undo a taboo, it is opening a Pandora's Box that will only strengthen criminals' hold on everything that cannot be decriminalised;

b) Industrialisation of mass counterfeit production, particularly with regard to capital-consuming "criminal manufacturing" (dangerous counterfeit goods, narcotics, etc.);

c) Intensification in illegal trade coming into Europe, North America and developed parts of Asia;

d) Increasing hybridisation between "politics" (guerrillas, armed gangs), "religion" (various forms of fanaticism, jihadists) and criminal trafficking in all its guises. Also worth noting is the remarkable ability of criminal and hybrid groups to withstand any kind of upheaval: three weeks after the terrible earthquake in Haiti⁹ for instance, it was business as usual in the country's criminally run brothels, despite the surrounding anarchy;

e) Flourishing cross-border crime, as always stemming from links between fiefs and diasporas:

⁹ January 2010, approximately 230,000 dead, 300,000 injured and 1.5 million homeless. See *Libération* dated 23/01/10: "A Cité Soleil, la menace des gangs" ("In Cité Soleil, gangs are a threat") and *Libération* dated 1/02/10: "A Port-au-Prince, les bandits sont de retour, des bordels ont rouvert" ("In Port-au-Prince, gangs are back, and brothels have reopened").

. Mega-gangs and degenerate guerrillas hold greater sway over uncontrolled parts of the emerging world,

. The criminals keep a tighter rein on the people in "their" diasporas who have emigrated to major developed centres, especially in lawless housing estates and neighbourhoods;

f) A gradual weakening and criminal degeneration of the *Salafi*-jihadist movement, with a concurrent rise in "political" Salafism (Muslim Brotherhood);

g) Eco-terrorists' ongoing ability to effectively harass their targets.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Criminal finance in Europe and worldwide (2010)

<i>Global narcotics trade</i>	Approx US\$320 billion a year
<i>Global trade in counterfeit pharmaceuticals</i>	Approx US\$75 billion a year
<i>Human trafficking in Europe</i>	Approx US\$3 billion a year
<i>Cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting worldwide</i>	Approx 600 billion cigarettes a year, representing some US\$50 billion in lost tax revenue for governments.

United States: organised crime and terrorism

<i>Earnings by Mexican Cartels in the United States in 2009 (cocaine, heroin and amphetamines)</i>	Approx US \$40 billion
<i>Annual cost of trafficking and drug abuse in the United States (overburdened justice system, strained healthcare system, lost productivity, and environmental destruction)</i>	US\$ 215 billion
<i>Cost of the war in Afghanistan (2001-2009)</i>	US\$ 243 billion
<i>"War on Terror": 2010 budget for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan</i>	US\$159 billion

<i>Monthly cost of the war in Iraq (49,000 troops in summer 2010)</i>	US\$ 5.5 billion
<i>Monthly cost of the war in Afghanistan (87,000 troops in early 2010)</i>	US\$ 6.7 billion (nearly US\$105 billion in FY 2010)
<i>Total US (Pentagon) defence budget unveiled in 2010</i>	US\$ 708 billion in (compared with an inflation-adjusted US\$280 billion in 2000)
<i>2010 budget for the "War on Drugs"</i>	US\$15 billion

The five faces of globalised crime

<i>Top</i>	Criminal finance
<i>Bottom</i>	Hybrid and mutant groups, mega-gangs, prison gangs, etc.
<i>Territories</i>	Lawless neighbourhoods and anarchic megacities
<i>Flows</i>	Major trafficking and dangerous counterfeit goods
<i>Technology</i>	Cybercrime and identity crime (data theft, etc.)