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Special Issue

Transnational Organized Crime: Challenges and Prospects in the Twenty-First Century

Guest Editors:

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Presentation

This issue aims to examine the multiple manifestations of organized crime across different regions of the world, assessing its profound effects on the social, economic, and political structures of states. It also seeks to identify and analyze the strategies and measures implemented to prevent and combat this phenomenon, highlighting both the successes and the challenges faced by governments and international organizations in their fight against organized crime.

Organized crime is a global threat that deeply affects the stability and security of states. Its ability to infiltrate public and private institutions and corrupt them, as well as its influence on the economy, politics, and society, makes it a complex, multifaceted phenomenon. This special issue aims to offer a comprehensive, detailed, and up-to-date view of the various ways in which organized crime operates and expands across different regions of the world.

Phenomena such as drug and arms trafficking, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, the illicit exploitation of resources (gold, flora, and fauna), and money laundering—all of it marked by pervasive violence—have a profound impact on communities, particularly the most vulnerable.

In this context, it is crucial to analyze not only the phenomenon itself and its manifestations, but also the strategies and policies implemented to prevent and combat organized crime.

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Over the years, governments and international organizations have developed a variety of approaches, ranging from multilateral cooperation and the strengthening of legal frameworks to the use of advanced technologies to track and dismantle criminal networks. However, these efforts often face significant challenges, such as limited resources, corruption, and the adaptability of criminal organizations.

In conclusion, this special issue aims to foster a deeper understanding of this phenomenon among researchers and experts in transnational organized crime.

Thematic lines:

- 1. Current characteristics of organized crime
- 2. Socioeconomic impact in Latin America, Africa, and Asia
 - 2.1. Criminal governance: concept and characteristics
 - 2.2. Criminal phenomena: a violation of human rights
 - 2.3. Social consequences
 - 2.4. Economic consequences
- 3. Strategies for prevention and countering. Legal and judicial aspects
 - 3.1. National and international policies
 - 3.2. International cooperation and multilateral effects
- 4. Technology and organized crime
 - 4.1. Use of advanced technologies by criminal organizations
 - 4.2. Cybercrime and its relationship with transnational organized crime

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Academic profile:

Academic profile

Concepción Anguita-Olmedo is an Associate Professor in international relations and organized crime at the Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociología, Universidad Complutense de Madrid. She has served as coordinator of the Master's in Defense Policy and International Security and holds a diploma in Advanced Defense Studies (CESEDEN). She is a researcher at the Instituto Complutense de Estudios Internacionales (ICEI) and at the Centro de Estudios sobre Crimen Organizado Transnacional (CeCOT) at IRI-Universidad de La Plata. She is a member of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. She has been a Visiting Scholar at the Inter-American Defense College (Washington, 2022); at the University of California, San Diego (2019); at the University of California, Los Angeles (2014); at the Academia Nacional de Estudios Políticos y Estratégicos (ANEPE-Chile) (2018); at the Universidad de La Plata (2015); and at the Escola de Comando e Estado-Maior do Exército (ECEME) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She received the Cruz del Mérito Militar con Distintivo Blanco (2021), awarded by the Ministerio de Defensa de España. She was named professor *honoris causa* by the Ministério da Defesa do Brasil and the Escola de Comando e Estado-Maior do Exército (ECEME) in Rio de Janeiro on December 6, 2022.