

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

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FOR THE WORLD'S BORDER PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY INDUSTRY
POLICY-MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS

COVER STORY

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Cocaine Trafficking: We don't know, what we don't know!

In February, acting on a tip off from the Dutch Police, authorities in Germany seized more than 23 tons of cocaine in a container in Hamburg, hidden in cans of putty.

It is said to be Europe's largest ever cocaine bust and worth billions of Euros.

But this was not the only notable success, earlier in February, Belgian authorities seized 7.2 tons of the drug in the port of Antwerp and also in February the German police discovered 16 tons of cocaine hidden in containers, again at the port of Hamburg.

Now obviously there has been a good deal of self-congratulation for a major pipeline being closed, and for a job well done, and of course it is. But the truth is, we don't really know the size of the cocaine market in Europe and therefore what the impact of these seizures really are.

With Mexican cartels now largely dominating the cocaine trade heading North to the US and Canada, Europe is now the most attractive market for South American cocaine, where it sells at a much higher price. And it is not just coming from Colombia anymore but other expanding producers including Bolivia and Peru.

So, in this context, is this really a major blow to the cocaine trafficking trade to Europe or is it just the tip of a very large cocaine iceberg? It is undoubtedly a huge haul in only one month (roughly 25% of the entire seizures in 2020) but we don't know how many shipments got through successfully in the same period, before or since.

We can also assume that there are other cocaine routes that are carrying on uninterrupted.

There are dozens of other points of entry for freight coming to Europe and there are also literally thousands of ports welcoming pleasure craft with little done in the way of security checks. And of course, there are plenty of other ingenious ways for determined, well-resourced traffickers to get their product to market. For instance, in 2019 the Spanish police discovered the first semi-submersible known to have crossed the Atlantic, carrying 3 tons of cocaine. But again, how many had already reached Europe this way and how many have successfully made the trip since.



There's an old saying "we don't know, what we don't know", which pretty much sums up where we are.

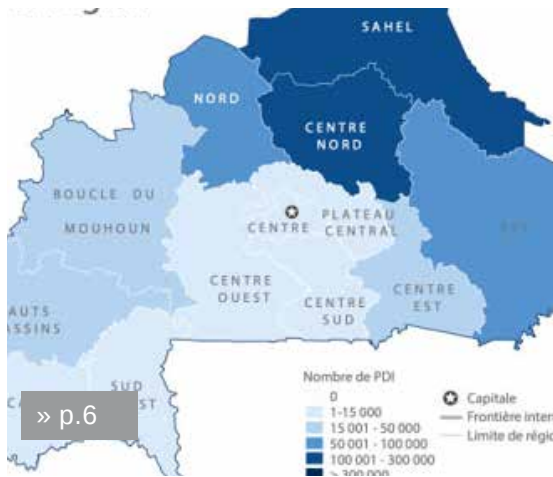
Market forces will probably provide the best measure of how impactful these latest interdictions really are.

If there is a sharp rise in the price of cocaine on the streets of Europe, we can conclude that a major blow has been struck against traffickers. But if nothing happens to the price, as I would guess, then we can surmise that supply has barely been touched and that for most traffickers, it's business as usual. And business is good!

Tony Kingham
Editor

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Greece lies at the crossroads of East and West, Europe and the Middle East. It lies directly opposite Libya so along with Italy is the primary destination for migrants coming from that conflict zone and is a short boat trip from Turkey, the other principal migrant route for Syrians fleeing there conflict there.

Greece has over sixteen thousand kilometres of coastline and six thousand islands, only two hundred and twenty-seven of which are inhabited. The islands alone have 7,500 km of coastline and are spread mainly through the Aegean and the Ionian Seas, making maritime security incredibly challenging.

The sheer scale of the migrant crisis in late 2015 early 2016 had a devastating impact on Greek finances and its principle industry, tourism. All this in the aftermath of the financial crisis in 2009. Despite this, both Greece and Italy, largely left to handle the crisis on their own, managed the crisis with commendable determination and humanity.

With their experience of being in the frontline of the migration crisis, Greece is the perfect place re-convene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

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More cross-border cooperation necessary to help victims of THB



To better assist victims of trafficking in human beings (THB), more cross-border cooperation and investigations are necessary. Earlier involvement of Eurojust and a higher number of cases referred to the Agency will help to better coordinate investigations and get a fuller picture of internationally operating criminal networks, which exploit often young and vulnerable victims. These are the main conclusions from the Eurojust Report on Trafficking in Human Beings.

The Report was adopted by the College of the Agency right before 22 February, the European Day for Victims of Crime, and is presented today, at the occasion of the meeting of the EU Victims' Rights Platform. It comes at a crucial time as well, as the European Commission is working towards a new EU strategy on combating human trafficking.

Mr Filippo Spiezia, National Member for Italy at Eurojust, and Ms Ivanka Kotorova, National Member for Bulgaria, chairperson and vice-chairperson of the anti-trafficking team, jointly stated: 'Trafficking in human beings is not always a very visible, but yet one of the most heinous crimes. In most of the cases, it exploits people who already live in difficult conditions, with their dignity taken away. Together, we must step up our efforts to tackle this dreadful kind of exploitation, and at Eurojust, we stand ready to coordinate effective investigations to protect victims, even more vulnerable in this era of a global pandemic.'

Combating THB is one of the main priorities for Eurojust. According to a study by the European Commission, in 2017 and 2018 more than 26 000 persons were a victim of THB in the European Union, out of whom 92% were female. It concerns

victims from all over the world, often living in difficult circumstances, lured into sexual exploitation or forced labour under the pretences of tempting job offers. In many cases, their identity documents are confiscated or they have been provided with fake documents, regularly forced into committing minor crimes, which makes them extra vulnerable.

Between January 2017 and June 2019, EU Member States and third countries referred 405 THB cases to Eurojust for judicial cross-border cooperation. In most of these cases, European citizens were the victims, exploited by other European citizens. This shows that exploitation of EU victims remains a very serious concern and, according to the Report, the total number of THB cases with complex cross-border aspects might be much higher. Member States' authorities in 2017 and 2018 reported close to 6 000 suspects per year.

Eurojust encourages Member States to ask for its involvement at an earlier stage, to counter organised crime groups (OCGs) that work cross-border quickly and to facilitate a rapid information exchange with Europol and national authorities. It is worthwhile as well to have a check done by Eurojust to see if parallel proceedings are taking place in other countries and to have a more rapid reaction and coordination, for instance, to set up a joint investigation team (JIT).

The Report analyses 91 of these cases and 59 JITs into THB cases supported by Eurojust. It lists best practice for Member States and practical matters for which support was asked, such as resolving conflicts of jurisdiction and assistance with the execution of European Investigation Orders (EIOs).

Particular attention is paid to the position of victims and, for instance, their ability to participate in witness protection programmes and how to properly take care of their rescue and safety during operations. Eurojust is planning to set up a dedicated internal structure to deal with victims' rights and interests, bringing together all expertise of the Agency in this domain.

To ensure a more horizontal approach for victims' rights and interests, the European Commission on 22 September 2020 established the EU Victims' Rights Platform, which has its follow-up meeting today. The Platform is a key action of the first-ever EU Strategy on victims' rights 2020-2025.

HUMAN SECURITY CHALLENGES AT THE TRI-BORDER LIPTAKO-GURMA AREA IN THE SAHEL

By Badreddine El Harti, currently a Rule of Law and Security Institutions Advisor with the United Nations and a Special Adviser to the President of Burkina Faso.

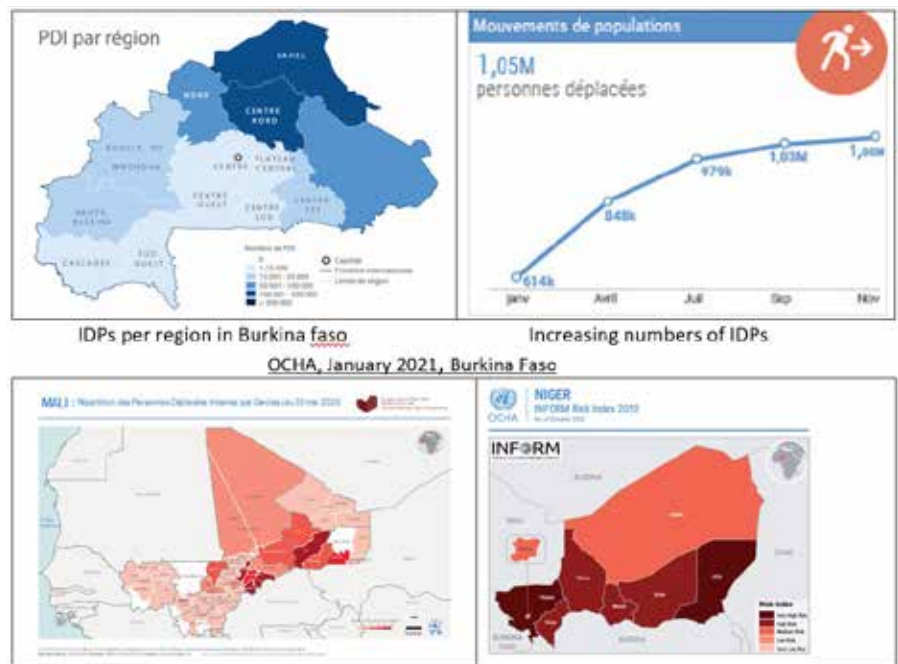
The Liptako Gurma region condenses the history and socio-economic dynamics at play in the margins of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. In the last few years, it has come to mirror how the emerging trends of violent extremism impacts human security and exacerbates latent tensions at the borders with a riddle effect in the sub-region and beyond.

Border security presents a unique geographical and spatial zooming opportunity to delve into vulnerable and frequently marginalized areas of state and population security. Under current severe insecurity, it also enables to explore the challenges and opportunities to human security amid cross border and national decision-making dynamics.

The recent spread of asymmetric threats is indeed adversely re-shaping the Liptako Gurma's security landscape. The growing insecurity in and around the tri-border area has brought close attention from sub regional and international levels. It was initially fed by borders porosity, farmer-herder conflicts and a deteriorating environmental impact. It has gotten worse by illicit trafficking, a weak presence of state authority and a deeply rooted social, political and developmental marginalization.

A salient feature of the Liptako Gurma social landscape remains the fragility of social contracts. The perception and reality of border populations being at the margins of their societies nurture a sense of mistrust in their states' institutions. This frustration is fueled by long term grievances over the lack of social services, of infrastructure, of development opportunities and currently of security. These grievances fuel social frustration, marginalization, social fragmentation and communitarism. Consequences are already seen in the emergence of ethnic self-defense groups and an increase in cross border criminality and violent extremism.

In the last five years, the closure of schools and ethnic clashes along the border area have further contributed to induce fertile grounds for preying and recruitment by violent extremist groups. Long-term prevailing physical, human and



socio-economic layers of complexity in the Liptako Gurma question the share of asymmetrical threats in the conflict dynamics. It requires a non-linear conflict analysis, including of the impact of national and international responses brought so far. In that regard, an approach to the challenges and opportunities to human security comprehensively might help inform the way forward.

AI Challenges:

- A multi-layer crisis and the complexity of conflict analysis:

The Liptako Gurma ecosystem faces a multi-layer crisis that affects politics, security, humanitarian and health domains. The superposition of these layers has an adversely exponential effect on its fragility. Marked by coups and insurrections in Burkina and Mali and corruption scandals in Niger and Mali, the last decade has seen a marked political turmoil and volatility

that has weakened the states authority and negatively impacted their border areas.

Regional triggers, especially the spillover from the Libyan conflict and the fleeing south of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat might have triggered the emergence of violent extremism in the Sahel but the fragility of the sub-region definitely yielded a breeding ground to its spread.

A humanitarian crisis has since seen over a million of people displaced, with hundreds of schools and health centers closed. The UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs -OCHA- infographics below illustrate the severity of the humanitarian crisis in the Liptako Gurma, that converging lenses from the three surrounding countries show it as a center of gravity for the crisis in the

sub-region.

The advent, early 2020 of the Coronavirus health crisis, adding to epidemic relapses such as malaria and hepatitis, imposing closure of borders and restraints of movements have cumulatively and adversely impacted human security along the borders and beyond. Harsh economic conditions, proliferation of illicit trafficking, radical preaching, deterioration of populations trust in state institutions have further contributed to a conducive environment for recruitment, logistics and operations support to violent extremism. The difficulty for national actors and international partners to comprehensively address, through nexus lenses, the multi-dimensional and overlapping crisis layers has limited the effectiveness and efficiency of the various action plans implemented.

• **Lack of a nexus approach to human security:**

While national strategies are theoretically multidimensional as would be displayed in the “Programme d’Urgence du Sahel/ Sahel Emergency Plan” in Burkina for example, the reality will show that the states budgets have increased defense and security budgets at the expense of education and health for instance, especially since 2015, owing to the resource intensive security response to asymmetric threats. It shows that physical security aspects are prioritized over

development, humanitarian and human rights ones.

Similarly, looking at the sub-region level, the example of the G5 Sahel Strategy displays a comprehensive scope, including but not limited to a security dimension while most of the funding is still earmarked to the G5 force. The visibility of the G5 is also mostly tied to the use of force in addressing the threats with partners following a similar path. As a matter of fact, for marginalized communities at the borders, unfamiliar with a significant presence of state authorities, witnessing heavy military and law enforcement deployment might be alarming. They end up feeling trapped between violent extremists and national troops with the perception or the reality of being abused by both.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) suffer in multiple ways. With the loss of their livelihoods and houses, they are frequently stigmatized and targeted by both national and adversary forces. Unless a nexus approach ties humanitarian

responses to security, human rights and development ones in a holistic and cross-fertilizing approach, no pillar will be effective on its own, less so without synchronization. In the Sahel, there are two million IDPs with over a million in Burkina, mostly fleeing the Liptako Gourma. For IDPs to return home, the roads need to be safer, their lands demined, their markets, schools and health centers reopened, and security restored. For them to recover, development opportunities should be boosted, which also requires a secure environment.

Respect for human rights is key to reconstruct the populations’ trust in state institutions, especially in the security and justice domains. Therefore, for the states to win the hearts and minds of their population, the use of force needs to firmly comply to international human rights and humanitarian laws. Stigmatization of local populations, including the Fulani has yet to be addressed through promoting social cohesion and renewed social contracts. Without



population trust, military and law enforcement deployments and operations will lack support and intelligence to engage asymmetrical threats. In the meantime, violent extremism keeps recruiting, garnering support and expanding its footprint and reach. Any strategy for securing the borders and for preventing and countering violent extremism needs a nexus approach that would factor all these pillars to be effective.

• Weaknesses of sub-regional human security approaches:

A number of poorly synchronized sub regional responses have taken shape the last decade to counter the emergence of violent extremism. The Liptako Gurma authority previously launched by Mali, Burkina and Niger to address the fragility in the tri-border

area has recently extended its mission to encompass security matters. The G5 Sahel (G5S) coalition , regrouping Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Tchad has more recently come to attract significant international endorsement and donations. It displays a significant military footprint and while its buildup might have elapsed the role of the Liptako Gurma, its full operationalization has yet to happen.

Mali was the first theatre in the Sahel to launch a scaled fight against insurrections and asymmetric threats during the last decade. Four military forces operate side by side within its borders: the Malian Army (FAMA), the military component of MINUSMA (mandated under SC Chapter IIV), the G5 and the French Barkhane forces

If we transpose the combined effect of these forces on the figure below by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), it could be argued that the cumulative tempo of these forces triggered continuous shifts of the epicenter of violent extremism. It would also have prompted a spillover of the attacks into the Liptako tri-border area. The maps illustrate indeed, based on the concentration of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) incidents, how asymmetric threats have spread and how the attacks shifted from North Mali to its center and progressively to the tri border area. With the shifting of centers of gravity, the threats spread further along eastern and western borders of Burkina, affecting the borders with coastal countries. Wooded areas such as the ‘W park’ along Niger and Benin borders have been



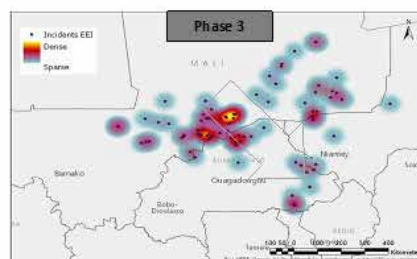
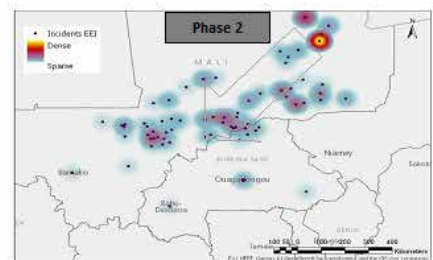
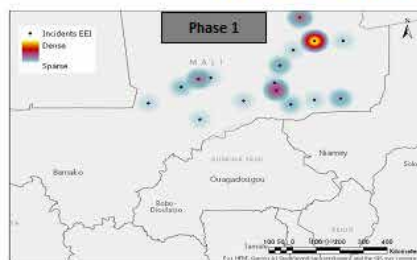
Sub-regional spillover of IEDs: Mali-Burkina and Niger January 2021

Phase 1 : 1.1.13 to 30.3.15 : IEDs limited to North Mali

Phase 2 : 30.3.15 to 09.8.18 : Sliding towards Center Mali, new Center of gravity

Phase 3 : 09.08.18 to 21.06.19 : Spillover to the East, impacting Burkina and Niger.

Phase 4 : 21.06.19 to 31.12.20 : Further extension to the East with increase of incidents in Central Mali, Burkina and Niger



providing temporary safe havens, enabling violent extremists to regroup, train and also pose serious risks for coastal countries.

Other foreign forces, especially the French Barkhane which has significant boots on the ground operate against violent extremism, embodying modern warfare in asymmetrical settings and the use of hard power in the sub region. While it has achieved relative military success jointly with the G5S and national armies, local forces and populations continue to suffer heavy losses. This shows that while military action has to be part of the solution, it certainly is not the solution nor a sustainable endeavor. Therefore, the involvement of foreign powers, spearheading the use of hard power against violent extremism might be giving heightened yet uncertain expectations to local authorities, pressured by persistent attacks, that the use of force can wipe out violent extremism as exemplified by a Burkinabé minister of defense

messaging in 2017 that armed forces “will terrorize the terrorists” .

The buildup of military forces and of a doctrinal approach prioritizing hard power over other state instruments of power may have serious implications on the national security of the Liptako Gurma countries and on their efforts in security sector governance and reform for a sustainable peace and security.

• **Challenges to the national security vision:**

The Liptako Gurma security dynamics show the implication of border areas on national security in each of the surrounding states. The lead taken de facto by military forces in Mali, Burkina and Niger encroaches over their internal security apparatus. It is manifest in the steady militarization of borders which in turn is favoring a militarization of internal security and, a level up, a militarization of the political decision-making process. Overpowering the

military without a due balance with governance and accountability mechanisms might create a conducive environment to unconstitutional power seizure by the military as witnessed with August 2020's military coup in Mali.

If appropriately faced, asymmetrical threats can raise the resilience of states and populations, strengthen their security sectors but also their nexus approach to human security. Despite the tedious challenges and the human loss and displacement in the sub region, the adversity in front of violent extremism might trigger multiple opportunities, namely in build resilience, strengthening security sectors and refining human security approaches. The inadequacy of national responses in the Liptako Gurma can also be seen as tied to the absence of major conflicts in the History of the Sahel. This ‘non-necessity’ might have prevented the countries of the sub-region from building strong security apparatus. It has also caught them unprepared to face the recent emergence of asymmetrical threats. The current surge in building resilience and security postures can provide a sustainable peace and security should it be closely shaped by good governance.

B/ Opportunities

• **Channeling CT led-hard power into comprehensive human security approaches:**

The protracted conflict in and around the Liptako Gurma show the





limits of hard power in preventing and responding to violent extremism. The military response remains an important part of the response but presents important limitations.

First, border populations have been traditionally at the margins of state authority. They have grown to be over-sensitive to weaponized 'state symbols' out of mistrust, of fear and of their non-identification with military forces that are not inclusive enough for them. Building social cohesion and the trust of populations in their state institutions is key to have their endorsement to the security strategies developed.

Second, military forces are not trained on internal security. They don't have adequate tools such as judiciary police, 'population-centered' intelligence, etc. Their doctrine, equipment and training in the use of force is disproportional to population centered- security tasks. Pending training, they can be in support of law enforcement

in preventing and responding to violent extremism as shown in countries with a democratic culture but cannot substitute to law enforcement. Their contribution to an effective protection of the populations remains pending to their transformation into third responders to internal security threats, in support of law enforcement.

Third, the proliferation of non-state or informal security and justice actors like the dogons, koglwegos, etc. play an important role in security but are often denounced for committing human rights violations and for their partiality, induced by their ethnocentricity. For them to effectively contribute to the protection of civilians, they need to be inclusive, institutionalized and held -together with the sponsoring state- accountable. A minimal standard will be to train -and supervise- them into upholding human rights as a key transitional priority to ensure they can safely contribute to enhance security

where state presence is weak or absent.

Therefore, clarity in missions between defense and internal security actors, namely among military, paramilitary and law enforcement forces remain key to meet current and emerging threats. It is a fact that the very tools that can be used to protect a population can also be used to control it and a safe way forward would be to promote security sector governance and reform to ensure protection doesn't grow into control. Security sector reform has the potential to shape the building up of effective, accountable and affordable security sectors that meet security challenges without reversing fragile democratic gains.

• Streamlining national and sub regional interventions

In strategizing against violent extremist groups, national or international forces need to factor and mitigate spillover effects in their end state. Military operations might degrade the capacity of violent extremist groups but would hardly hinder their movement towards safer grounds. Border areas in particular limit pursuits and enable these groups to regroup and recover readiness, to which the Liptako Gurma area offers a key terrain. An example of spillover can be seen in effect along MINUSMA's shifting priorities. The first mandate of this UN Mission in 2013 focused on protecting civilians in North Mali. Six years later, a revision of the

mandate shifted the effort to central Mali. In both cases, the pressure has contributed to progressively push spoilers south and eastwards, especially along border areas where the weakness of state authority enable safe heavens. With MINUSMA's mandate being limited to the Malian territory, it was predictable that spoilers might flee beyond these limits and operate -in and out- retaining their capacity to operate. Likewise, when Barkhane and G5 forces jointly intensified their operations in 2019 in the Liptako Gurma , violent extremist groups spread along eastern and western borders of Burkina.

To enhance synchronization of sub regional approaches, it is essential for national and international partners to engage in a policy dialogue with the aim to ascertain political primacy in conflict resolution, identify win-win interests, prioritize nexus and no harm approaches and bridge the gap between programmatic and political supports. The partnerships

have a key role to play in areas hit by violent extremism. As foreign allies deploy military units to counter terrorists they can choose to apply 'a no harm approach' in proportionally supporting the governance of security sectors, enabling their subordination to the civilian control of democratically elected officials. A policy dialogue on comparative advantages of bilateral and multilateral partners and on the pace of consolidating security governance versus security capacities would ensure not only efficiency but also accountability and affordability of security sectors. Importantly, it would enable to strengthen the rule of law, preserve fragile democratic gains and mitigate illegal disruption of the political power.

Conclusion

Border security in the Liptako Gurma can only be adequately addressed if considered within the larger framework of human security. There is also a necessity to prevent

the drive of counter-terrorism operations from over-empowering the military and blurring the lines with law enforcement.

Militarization of borders and of internal security can have a serious impact on the populations trust in state institutions. It does further marginalize border populations with risks of inducing support to violent extremists' groups. At national level, it also gives the military a vote in political decision-making processes and create, in absence of strong governance mechanisms, a conducive environment to a military appetite for power.

However, the adversity of asymmetric threats at the borders also offers states an opportunity to build able and accountable security forces and to use state instruments of power to protect populations at their margins, to reconstruct populations' trust in state institutions and to nurture social cohesion and nation building for a sustainable peace and stability.

First-ever digital data platform for improved reintegration of returning migrants

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched a digital platform, Returning Migrants Management of Information Systems (ReMiMIS), to collect, analyze, and store data of returning migrants to Bangladesh.

The comprehensive ReMiMIS system will contribute to better migration data management and development of targeted reintegration support programs. In addition, stakeholders will have access to information on the skills profiles of returning migrants and potentially

contribute to skills transfers to communities/ sectors in demand. The data will support policymakers to understand the needs and vulnerabilities of returning migrant workers and help facilitate the creation of targeted and evidence-based reintegration and safety-net programmes. The Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), custodian of the ReMiMIS, will work closely with Union Development Centers (UDC), District Employment and Manpower Offices (DEMOs) to input migrants' data into the system.

NAPTIP DG Seeks Support of Northern Governors to Combat THB



Director General of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Imaan Sulaiman – Ibrahim, has disclosed that the Agency is on the mission to gain confidence of driver partners and smooth the existing relationship among stakeholders in order to achieve the desired result in the fight against human trafficking and Child abuse across the Country.

The Task Force on Human Trafficking being supported by some partners including International Organization for Migration (IOM), is a counter trafficking measure aimed at getting the full support of State actors in order

maximally address the menace from the grassroots.

The NAPTIP Director General shared her renewed Vision of the Agency which comes strongly from the preventive and growth angle and also enable collaboration adding that working closely with State Governments and committed stakeholders remained a key factor in the operations of the Agency.

She further stated that the Project 4S and 4R aligns with President Muhammadu Buhari’s Vision of Securing the Country, diversifying economy and also lifting 100 million people out of poverty in 10 years and solicited for the supports of the Governor and that of his members in the Northern Governors Forum in realizing the Agency’s vision, making the people of the region less vulnerable and less accessible to the human traffickers.

In response, the Governor after Highlighting their Trafficking challenges in the State and reiterated his confidence in NAPTIP and assured the DG of his 100% support toward the fight against human trafficking and any form of human degradation and exploitation.

Smuggling of migrants in Mexico and Central America never entered “quarantine”

A recent study by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Central America and Mexico analyzed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migratory flows related to this crime. The main findings suggest that illicit trafficking has continued to develop, although flows have decreased since the beginning of 2020.

The smuggling of migrants, that is, the irregular movement of people across an international border, constitutes one of the most lucrative criminal activities in the world. Global mobility was completely affected during the COVID-19 pandemic, as an obvious effect of the measures adopted by States regarding border

restrictions and closures. However, “human smuggling” through Mexico and Central America was never “quarantined.”

The study found no evidence that organized crime has taken control of the smuggling of migrants, focusing instead on the illicit movement of drugs, medicines and other items. On the contrary, it was found that subsistence trafficking prevails, practiced by inhabitants of border areas that have been impoverished due to the reduction of employment opportunities and the loss of income caused by the restrictions imposed on mobility and trade.

ON THE BORDERS OF THE MAGHREB: FOCUS ON ALGERIA

by Zahir Hadibi

Introduction

This paper aims to review the detailed elements of the context situation at the Maghreb borders with a focus on the Algerian ones, shared, moreover, with all the countries of the Maghreb region and even the Sahel. We intend to analyze the borders that are being tested by the dynamics at work

at several levels: i) the maritime borders whose overlap of Algeria's maritime zones with Spain and Italy is under negotiation, a process already underway between Morocco and Spain, ii) the management of air borders in the light of the global pandemic, iii) and finally, Algeria's land borders, the scene of multiple human flows and various cross-border exchanges.



**Maritime borders with the North:
Delimitation under negotiation
with Spain and Italy**

The Mediterranean was an important epicenter of the world, it remains as an influential and highly strategic part. The three countries of the central Maghreb have a very important seafront. Tunisia’s seafront extends over 1300 km, the Algerian coastline develops over about 1600 km while the maritime border of Morocco opens on two seafronts, an important one on the Atlantic Ocean and another, less important, on the Mediterranean Sea, totaling a length of more than 1835 km excluding the seafront of Western Sahara. The Maghreb’s maritime frontage gives it a position of crossroads at the North/South interface where two continents but also two seas are combined.

2020 is marked by a political

process of the delimitation negotiation of maritime borders and territorial waters with the north, especially Spain. Morocco has established its legal jurisdiction (BORM, 2020) over the adjacent waters of Western Sahara, in addition to the Polisario Front, which rejects the texts, the Regional Government of the Canary Island and the Central Government of Madrid have reacted. The disagreement is expressed, a negotiation process is at work about the overlap between maritime areas.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) in its 2nd section confers sovereignty to States to delimit the width and outer limit of their territorial sea. Algeria delimited its territorial sea in 2018 (JORADP, 2018), Article 1 establishes an exclusive

economic zone off the Algerian coast. Article 2 specifies that ‘The outer limits of the exclusive economic zone may, if necessary, be modified within the framework of bilateral agreements with States whose coasts are adjacent to or facing the Algerian coasts’. Article 74 of the UN Convention provides: ‘The delimitation of the exclusive economic zone between States whose coasts are adjacent or opposite each other shall be effected by agreement in accordance with international law...’. In this spirit, Algeria and Spain have opted for bilateral negotiations to hear the statements of the Algerian and Spanish MFAs during the press conference held in early March 2020 in Algiers.

A Joint Technical Committee in charge of the delimitation of maritime borders between Algeria and Italy was also set up in September 2020.

Tunisia, for its part, established its territorial waters in 2005 (JORT) already. Its maritime borders with Italy were delimited in 2013 (JORADP, 2013).

**Air Borders in Light of the
Pandemic COVID-19: Preventive
Lockdown**

The emergence of the global pandemic COVID-19 has impacted borders in a new way. The borders of the Maghreb are not left behind. Strict and abrupt measures of travel restrictions have been taken by the Algerian high authorities, including



the closure of all land, sea and air borders, starting in mid-March 2020 already after the first cases of contamination were imported. Traffic being an important vector of propagation. This early measure is crucial for the stabilization and mitigation of the epidemic according to health experts. Sharp programs of repatriation flights have been planned for the diaspora abroad, the demand remains higher. Despite the start of the vaccination campaign towards the end of January 2021 (APS, 2020). Borders remain tight, with a temporal reduction in international repatriation flights, especially after the appearance of COVID-19 mutants. The impact of the measure would be significant from an economic, but above all human, point of view.

The Maghreb countries have also imposed movement restrictions that have closed the borders. This is

the case of Morocco which closed its air and sea routes with Spain, France and Algeria and land with the two Spanish enclaves (Ceuta and Melilla) and Mauritania from mid-March 2020. A possibility of crossing the border is possible from July of the same year for some categories (Moroccan citizens, foreign residents in Morocco, individuals on official mission or invited by a company, but also foreign citizens not subject to visa formalities (MAP, 2020). A slight opening, especially after September 2020, in the hope of mitigating the shock on the tourism sector. Tunisia, whose economy also depends on tourism, closed its borders from March 18, 2020 before opting for the opening, in late June, for an important list of countries, air links opened with Libya in November (TAP, 2020).

Land Borders: Multiple Cross-Border Dynamics

A focus on Algerian borders is necessary, especially since they are not shared with the Maghreb countries only.

Algeria: geographical configuration of the land border

Algeria, being the largest country on the continent with an area of 2.382 million km² shares a very important border with several countries. The Algerian borders are estimated at 6,358 kilometers. Algeria has 16 border wilayas in the light of the promotion of delegated wilayas (February 2021). They extend over an area of 910 154 km, or 38.2 of the total area of the country for a population estimated at 920 000 inhabitants, or 2% of the total population of the country. Nearly



Source: Frontex, 2017

93% of the border area is occupied by the southern zones (849,036 km²) (MICLAT , 2018). Algeria shares 1601 km with Morocco, 1376 with Mali, 982 with Libya, 965 with Tunisia, 956 with Niger, 463 with Mauritania and 42 with Western Sahara.

Political and security condition in the region.

The regional geopolitical situation is unprecedented. The ‘Arab Spring’ has turned the geopolitical map and relations in the MENA region upside down. Authoritarian regimes fell under the snowball effect of unheard-of popular movements that began in the Maghreb, Tunisia. It quickly spread to other countries: Egypt, Libya, Syria and Yemen...

A cycle of instability has set in in different countries. This climate of instability has cleared the way for geopolitical tensions, foreign armed interventions, the proliferation of terrorist groups, and the circulation of weapons.

The situation in the Sahel is not without serious problems, particularly with the conflict situation in Mali. Armed groups were threatening, as early as 2012, to break the political and territorial order of the country. The crisis is still going on; in 2020, the then president was deposed by the military.

Other conflicts remain unresolved and brought to the level of the United Nations, including the Sahara issue, the oldest continental

conflict, it dates back to the 1970s. The status quo is increasingly untenable. The break-up phase is taking place, particularly with the evolution of world relations and the unilateralism of powers and interest deals . The ceasefire is broken in November 2020. The triggering factor occurred at the Guerguerat border crossing.

Algeria’s posture in the face of these conflicts is not just a matter

of its diplomacy, which tries to find political consensus. Algeria has repeatedly found itself obliged to militarize its borders. The costs of this borders securing are huge and borne solely by the state budget.

Cross-border dynamism:

A) Human movements:

This dynamic translates into illegal migratory flows of migrants passing through an ‘invisible’ intra-Maghreb

Outgoing Informality from Algeria:

<i>PRODUCTS & BORDERS</i>	BORDER EAST TERRESTRIA L	WESTERN LAND BORDER ³	SOUTHERN LAND BORDER	MARITIME & NORTHERN AIR BORDER
Fuel	X	X	X	
Necessities of food necessities⁴	X	X	X	
Poaching of the coral seabed ⁵	X			
Tobacco & Alcohol	X	X		X
Livestock	X	X	X	
illegal gold mining & gold diggers			X	
Household appliances and electronics	X	X		
Spare parts and hardware products	X	X		
Illicit transfer of currency & import surcharges				X
Subsidized Input Fraud				X
Trade by the suitcase				X

Incoming Informality in Algeria:

<i>PRODUCTS & BORDERS</i>	BORDER EAST TERRESTRIAL	WESTERN LAND BORDER	SOUTHERN LAND BORDER	MARITIME & NORTHERN AIR BORDER
Drugs		X		
Weapons			X	
Handicrafts, textiles and clothing		X	X	
Fruits and vegetables, chocolates and sweets, perfumery, drinks		X		
Typical fruits of the Sahel			X	
Livestock			X	
Spare parts, vehicle traffic	X			
Taxi-clandestines	X			

perspective (Zeghib, H. 2020) and take the route of the Western Mediterranean to reach Europe through Spain.

Beyond migration flows, these 'routes' are used by cross-border criminal networks of informal activities.

B) Informal cross-border activities:

We conducted empirical surveys during the years 2016 and 2017 (Hadibi, Z. 2019) on the land borders of Algeria.

Multiple activities and networks across borders is a serious security threat. States need to be more cooperative in border management, risks are now transnational and organized crime has become cross-border. As an illustration, Algeria

was the scene of a hostage-taking at a strategic gas site in the southeast (In Amenas) by terrorists who infiltrated from Libya. A Joint Operational Staff Committee (CEMOC) based in Tamanrasset has existed since 2010 with the mission of ensuring security cooperation between the countries of the region (Algeria, Mauritania, Mali and Niger).

2021: The beginning of integration

The year 2021 begins with ambitious projects to make the borders more open with the entry into force of the FTAA continental zone. During this year, the Trans-Saharan Highway, a regional cooperation and integration project, will be largely delivered.

Conclusion

There is indeed at the level of the region a coastal and territorial extent but also multiple hotbeds of tension, the borders interact with the multiple socio-economic, political-security and health issues. In the current era of globalization, borders are disappearing and distances are shrinking but also closing superstitiously and inopportunistly. A dialectic at work is visible at the level of the multiple borders of the Maghreb.



Kenyan officers on the front lines against wildlife crime



Globally, the situation of many of the world's most endangered species is dire. A quick glance at wildlife crime statistics shows numbers that are nothing short of shocking:

- Approximately 35,000 African elephants are killed each year.
- The population of Asian tigers has decreased by more than 95% in the last century.
- More than 128 tonnes of pangolin scales were intercepted in 2019 - a 200% increase from five years earlier.

However, while pointing out the scale of the threat is essential, it is just as important to recognize the heroic work of law enforcement officers on the front lines of the fight against transnational wildlife crime.

"As a country, we depend in a big way [...] on tourism. The tourism purely depends on the beauty of our environment," says George Maingi Kinoti, Director of the Criminal Investigations Department of Kenya's National Police Service.

"Wildlife crime is something which was not initially taken very [...] importantly [...] as one of the major crimes. Now, we are realizing the hospitals, the roads, the community's development actually are actually proceeds from these animals," Mr Kinoti explains.

Kenya is also of strategic importance in the fight

against wildlife crime due to its port in Mombasa, which sees up to 5,000 containers shipped through every day.

"The cartels, the smugglers, the criminal networks, will want [...] to sneak in an illicit or illegal shipment, hoping that because there's so many containers, we may overlook [...] and say 'we can only inspect so much,'" says Swaleh Faraj, a senior official at the Kenya Revenue Authority.

"We have put a lot of infrastructure to address that, to make it less attractive. This would not be a success without the support of INTERPOL and the global network they have to share and exchange information."

The collaboration of Kenyan law enforcement has already shown encouraging results. Over the last 30 years, elephant numbers in Kenya have doubled. A crackdown on poaching and wildlife trafficking has led to an increase in arrests.

Successfully fighting against wildlife traffickers is not without its risks. In Nairobi National Park, a monument bears the names of all those who have lost their lives in the line of duty protecting Kenya's wildlife.

"Every year, [the list of names] keeps growing," remarks Celine Mwangangi of the Kenya Wildlife Service. "We're always reviewing how we operate so that we beat the criminals, [so that] we get them before they get us. [This] is always our motto."

For Gideon Kimilu, Head of INTERPOL's Regional Bureau in Nairobi, law enforcement has a central role in combating wildlife crime yet protecting the environment is everyone's duty.

"In Kenya, we normally say our environment is our inheritance," Mr Kimilu says. "If you don't conserve your environment, what will you hand over to your children?"

19 Arrests in Hit Against Human Traffickers

Europol supported the Spanish National Police (Policía Nacional) and the Service of Countering Organised Criminality Giurgiu within the Romanian Police (Poliția Română) in a hit against an organised crime group involved in sexual exploitation.

The suspects belonged to a family-based criminal group composed of Romanian nationals. They recruited the victims from Romania, luring them to Spain with the so-called 'loverboy method'. Once the victims reached Girona, the members of the criminal gang forced them into prostitution on the streets of

the Spanish city. The victims endured harsh living conditions, cold and hunger. Some of them were forced to prostitute themselves while pregnant and at high risk of being infected by COVID in the current pandemic. To prove their 'ownership' over the victims, the criminal gang tattooed them. The suspects collected the money from the sexual exploitation and invested it in high-end vehicles, real estate, luxury goods and drugs. During the action day, officers in Romania discovered pornographic material including content depicting the sexual abuse of a minor.

Gang Smuggling Migrants via Balkans Busted in Germany



Europol supported the German Federal Police, Criminal Investigation Unit Halle (Bundespolizeiinspektion

Kriminalitätsbekämpfung Halle) in dismantling an organised crime group smuggling migrants from Turkey to Germany.

The criminal network has allegedly smuggled about 80 migrants originating from the Middle East, mainly Egypt, Syria and Turkey. The suspects used lorries and small vans to smuggle the migrants through the so-called Balkan route, from Turkey to Germany via Czechia or Poland. They used forerunners as a scout preventive measure to avoid detection by the police. The migrants were paying between €3 500 and €12 000 per person to be smuggled, in often life-threatening conditions.

€14 Million of Contraband Cigarettes Seized Leads to 13 Arrests

A total of 13 individuals were arrested in Denmark for their alleged role in smuggling counterfeit cigarettes produced in a clandestine factory and destined to the United Kingdom.

The timely exchange of intelligence via Europol between the Danish, Dutch and Polish investigators was essential in the success of the investigation carried in the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT).

A first action took place in Denmark which saw illegal factory dismantled in the municipality of Vamdrup.

This is the first case of an illegal factory being dismantled in the country. Thirteen individuals of Polish and Ukrainian nationality were arrested and 11 million cigarettes seized, alongside 11 tonnes of raw tobacco and a full production line. Forensic analysis is still ongoing in order to quantify the factory's exact production capacity, which is presumably of several million cigarettes per week.



Fake COVID vaccine distribution network dismantled after INTERPOL alert



South African authorities have seized hundreds of fake COVID-19 vaccines following a global alert issued by INTERPOL warning vaccines would be a prime target

for criminal networks.

Some 400 ampoules - equivalent to around 2,400 doses - containing the fake vaccine were found at a warehouse in Germiston, Gauteng, where officers also recovered a large quantity of fake 3M masks and arrested three Chinese nationals and a Zambian national.

In China, police successfully identified a network selling counterfeit COVID-19 vaccines, raided the manufacturing premises, resulting in the arrest of some 80 suspects, and seized more than 3,000 fake vaccines on the scene.

The investigation was supported and facilitated by INTERPOL's Illicit Goods and Global Health (IGGH) Programme.

Thirteen of Latin America's most wanted fugitives arrested

An INTERPOL-coordinated 'EL PACCTO' operation has seen a team of investigators from across Latin America locate and arrest 13 of their most wanted fugitives.

Wanted for serious and often horrific crimes, including murder, kidnapping and sexual violence against women, the fugitives were all subject to INTERPOL Red Notices – a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a wanted person.

Their names also featured on a list of priority fugitive targets established by INTERPOL's Fugitive Investigative Support (FIS) unit and law enforcement in eight Latin American countries in late 2020.

Then, during a two-week 'operational phase', INTERPOL coordinated intensive working meetings between national law enforcement aimed at locating and arresting as many of these fugitives as possible.

The operational model effectively pushes international police cooperation into 'hyper drive', allowing investigators to exchange actionable information in real-time.

This year, more fugitives were arrested during the operational phase than in any other INTERPOL EL PACCTO project to date. On one occasion, multiple fugitives were arrested in a single day. Positive locations were also secured for a further two wanted persons.

INTERPOL Global Academy expands network with new member

In a virtual ceremony, INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock, Commissioner General Juan Carlos Hernández, Head of the Argentine Federal Police and Esteban Neme, Rector of the University Institute of the Federal Police of Argentina signed the agreement between the two organizations.

"As a leading model of police cooperation, I am delighted that Argentina is now a part of the INTERPOL Global Academy," said Secretary General Stock.

"The University Institute of the Argentine Federal Police will bring additional academic rigour to the Academy as well as ensure law enforcement officials across the

globe, and particularly in the Americas, can reap the benefits of quality training programmes," added the Secretary General.

Commissioner General Hernández said the signing was a significant moment.



OSCE Mission to Skopje launches new project to reduce misuse of small arms and light weapons in North Macedonia

The OSCE Mission to Skopje launched a new project aimed at assisting North Macedonia in reducing the risk of trafficking and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW), which pose security risks to the country and the wider region.

“The safety of national SALW stockpiles is of paramount importance to increase security, contribute to fighting organized crime, and prevent trafficking, ultimately contributing to the security of citizens in the region and beyond,” said Clemens Koja, Head of OSCE Mission to Skopje at the opening of the kick-off event.

The project, based on input from the government of North Macedonia, builds on the results of a previous project, which the Mission delivered over the last four years.

Oliver Spasovski, Minister of Internal Affairs, said that the problem of uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons has gained importance in recent years in international, regional and national agendas. This global situation affects mass migration, which changes the existing terrorist models and therefore multiplies the potentially dangerous consequences of small arms and light weapons.

International discussion on terrorist use of Internet and related challenges on designation of illicit content online and gaps in regulatory frameworks

The online event was organized by the Action against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department with the support of the Albanian Chair of the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group and the OSCE External Co-operation Section. It aimed to build on the OSCE roundtable discussion on Leveraging Innovation and Technology to Address 21st Century Security Challenges and Crises across the OSCE and Asian Partners for Co-operation held in November 2020.

Opening the event, Ambassador Igli Hasani, Chair of the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group said: “Building effective partnerships is crucial in our fight against terrorism. For our partnerships to be

operational and meaningful, we need to co-operate beyond the layers of government and international organizational structures. As participating States, our fight against terrorism will only be as strong as our partnerships — building on mutual trust and pooling the resources between government agencies, civil society and the private sector.”

The webinar provided a platform for participants to review and examine the current and emerging trends, key issues and gaps related to how states’ regulatory and policy frameworks designate illicit and terrorist content online, as well as how online platforms handle this through their “terms of service”.

Twenty Tajik border officers complete the first round of OSCE-EU organized operational planning course

Twenty border officers from Tajikistan’s Border Troops completed a three-week operational planning course on 5 March 2021 in the Hamadoni district of the Khatlon region. The course was organized by the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe in co-operation with the Border Troops and funded by the European Union.

Participants of the course, who were mainly Tajik border officers serving along the border with Afghanistan, enhanced their skills in operational planning, briefing techniques, information and risk management, gender awareness as well as command and control skills. The officers also learned how to

react to threats emanating from outside the state borders, read topographic maps and interact and co-ordinate their joint operations to efficiently protect the border with border patrols.



Record Cross-Border Migrant Returns Contribute to Bleak Humanitarian Outlook for Afghanistan in 2021



Over the last year, more than one million Afghan migrants have returned or been deported to Afghanistan from neighbouring Pakistan and Iran as COVID-19

continues to deprive many of employment and health care.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that more than 650,000 undocumented migrants will return in 2021 – all of whom will be in dire need of humanitarian support at a time when donor funding is a small fraction of what is needed.

As of 11 March, IOM reports that over 200,000 undocumented Afghan migrants have returned since the start of the year. This is more than double the rate of return over the same period in 2019 and 2020. Around half of these returns have been deportations in recent weeks.

Child Survivors of Trafficking Rescued in Ghana Return to Côte d'Ivoire



IOM Ghana, working in close collaboration with Ghana's Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) organized the safe return of 13 child survivors of trafficking to their home country, Côte d'Ivoire.

The youths, now reunited with their families had been exploited by traffickers on farms in Ghana's Volta Region after being brought to the country by traffickers.

"Irrespective of where someone comes from, victims are victims, and must be given the best support possible," said Abena Annobea Asare, Head of the Human Trafficking Secretariat of the MoGCSP.

"I am glad to see this day come to pass where all stakeholders have worked as a team to ensure the successful return. The most rewarding is to see success in the face of adversity."

The youths – all boys aged nine to 19 – were brought to Ghana from Cote d'Ivoire under the pretext of studying Quran. An Imam allegedly exploited the children as farm workers, some for up to ten years according to Ghanaian authorities. Exact timelines are difficult to trace, as children as young as three were trafficked and they do not know the day, month or year they came to Ghana.

Based on a tip, the Ghana Police Service (GPS) undertook a rescue. One alleged trafficker has been arrested and is being prosecuted.

Stranded Migrants Arrive in Ethiopia from Yemen

One hundred forty Ethiopian migrants stranded in Yemen arrived in Addis Ababa today, the first Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme flight the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has facilitated between the two countries since the COVID-19 global pandemic was declared.



Frontex, EMSA and EFCA to strengthen cooperation on coast guard functions

Three European agencies took a significant step towards strengthening the European cooperation on coast guard functions. The Directors of Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) signed a new working arrangement that will structure their work related to supporting national authorities in increasing the safety and security at sea.

This includes tasks such as search and rescue, border control, fisheries control, customs activities, law enforcement and environmental protection.

The working arrangement covers cooperation on risk analysis and information exchange on threats in the maritime domain, as well as information sharing in

compliance with fundamental rights, data protection requirements, and access rights. The document also provides indications on collaboration for surveillance and communication services, and capacity building activities, as well as sharing of capacities.

The first tripartite working arrangement between Frontex, EFCA and EMSA was concluded and entered into force on the 18 March 2017 for a duration of four years. Since 2017, the three agencies have been cooperating to enhance the support provided to the national authorities carrying out coast guard functions in sharing maritime information, providing new surveillance and communication services, building capacity, analysing operational challenges and emerging risks in the maritime domain as well as by developing multipurpose maritime operations.

Frontex and Albania strengthen their partnership



Frontex and Albanian authorities signed an agreement to strengthen their cooperation in border management, fighting cross-border crime and return.

“The new agreement will build upon more than 12 years of cooperation with the Albanian authorities in border management. For a year and a half, Frontex officers have been working shoulder-to-shoulder with their national counterparts in Albania to combat cross-border crime,” said Frontex Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri.

“We owe it to our citizens to continue working together to address challenges that affect both Albania and the European Union at our borders,” he added.

The renewed “Working Arrangement” comes two years after the entry into force of the Status Agreement between the European Union and Albania, which enabled Frontex to deploy its first joint operation on the territory of a non-EU country.

Frontex currently has 71 officers from 20 EU countries working in Albania to support local authorities with border control and combatting cross-border crime, including people smuggling, trafficking in human beings and terrorism. Frontex also helps develop regional border control capacities through training, and the exchange of operational information and best practices.



Spanish Police Seize First Ever Narco-Submarine Made in Europe



The Spanish National Police (Policía Nacional), in close cooperation with Europol and law enforcement from five other countries, have seized in the city of Málaga the first ever half-submersible vessel being built on European territory. Similar vessels captured in the past have always been of Latin American manufacture.

The seizure was made in the framework of Operation FERRO, a high-level law enforcement operation against an organised crime group involved in large-scale drugs trafficking.

Over 300 police officers carried out this operation in Spain, supported by the National Police of Colombia (Policía Nacional de Colombia), the Dutch National Police (Politie), the Portuguese Judicial Police (Policia Judiciária), the U.K. National Crime Agency and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, with international activity coordinated by Europol.

Operation Ferro was carried out in several phases

Phase one: Investigators identified an organised crime group, composed of Spanish, Colombian and Dominican nationals, involved in large-scale trafficking of cocaine, hashish and marijuana. The criminals were operating from Spain, specifically Cataluña. Between April to December 2020, a number of important cocaine seizures linked to this criminal group were made in Colombia. A total of 2 900 kilos of cocaine were seized.

Phase two: In November 2020, police officers in Spain arrested the leader of this criminal network in Tarragona, alongside 13 of his accomplices.

Phase three: In February of this year, another branch of this organised crime group was targeted. Four individuals were arrested in Tarragona and a shipment of 583 kilos of hashish on its way to France and Italy seized. House searches were also carried out in Málaga, on the occasion of which the half-submersible vessel was found in a warehouse. The boat – the first ever of its kind seized on European soil, was still in construction when it was found. The craft was 9 meters long and could have been able to transport up to 2 tonnes of drugs.

Phase four: One of the main targets was arrested in February at the El Prat airport in Barcelona as he was trying to flee to the Netherlands. As a result of this arrest, a warehouse was searched Barcelona which led to the seizure of 300 kilos of cocaine.

Phase five: A clandestine drug laboratory was discovered in Barcelona next to an indoor cannabis plantation with over 1 150 plants. A 15-meter long speedboat belonging to this criminal network and loaded with 7 000 litres of gasoline was also seized in the region of Murcia.

Phase six: At the end of February, the remaining members of the criminal network were arrested. Some 6 000 litres of drug precursors were also seized, destined for a clandestine laboratory in Murcia.

Results of Operation Ferro

- 47 house searches carried out in the Spanish cities of Tarragona (6), Barcelona (11), Gerona (3), Málaga (11), Castellón (4), Valencia (2), Murcia (7), Cádiz (1), Granada (1) and Badajoz (1);
- 52 individuals arrested;
- 2 boats seized: one semi-submersible vessel in Málaga and one speedboat worth over €300 000 in the province of Murcia;
- Over 3 tonnes of cocaine seized, alongside 700 kilos of hashish and over €100 000 in cash

NIGERIA'S BORDER CLOSURES HAVEN'T SERVED THEIR PURPOSE

By Sampson Kwarkye, Senior Researcher, and Michaël Matongbada, Research Officer, ISS Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel, and the Lake Chad Basin

Source: ISS Today

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The continued cross-border smuggling raises questions about the strategy's effectiveness and the real reasons behind it.

In August 2019, Nigeria closed its land borders with neighbouring Benin, Cameroon, Chad and Niger. While people were allowed to pass through, the movement of goods was blocked.

The objective, Nigerian officials said, was to stem the smuggling of goods, particularly rice. Yet the phenomenon hasn't stopped since the closure, raising questions about the measure's effectiveness and the actual reasons for the decision.

A February 2020 meeting of finance and trade ministers convened by the Economic Community of West

African States brought together Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Togo, didn't resolve the situation.

Nigeria announced a partial reopening of its land borders on 16 December 2020 and has allowed passage by light vehicles and pedestrians only since January. Taking the issue to a higher level, Benin and Nigeria's leaders met in Abuja in January, but the position remained unchanged. A bilateral meeting between Ghana and Nigeria on the sidelines of the UK-Africa Investment Summit in January 2020 also failed to shift Nigeria's stance.

At the Abuja meeting, Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari lamented an increase in smuggling since the partial reopening. His Beninese counterpart Patrice Talon proposed stationing Nigerian police and customs officers at Benin's Autonomous Port of Cotonou to inspect exports to Nigeria. The two countries agreed to establish a working group to oversee the implementation of Talon's proposal which could take place by June 2021.

The closure invokes memories of the same measure imposed in 1984 by then military ruler Buhari. It highlights a preference for protectionist economic policies as a way of boosting growth and reducing unemployment.

Diplomats interviewed by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) attributed the 2019 closure



to Nigeria's concerns about the short-term impact of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement. The country was very late in ratifying the trade deal, doing so in December 2020, just one month before it entered into force in January 2021.

The closure invokes memories of the same measure imposed in 1984 by then military ruler Buhari

Nigeria anticipated that the agreement would further open its market, the largest in West Africa, to external businesses, including those in neighbouring countries. Industrial production of rice and maize in Nigeria is unorganised and weak, raising concerns that AfCFTA would allow other suppliers to capture much of the Nigerian and regional markets. The free trade area doesn't provide a mechanism for regulating informal cross-border trade, which smugglers often exploit.

There needed to be a short-term measure to prevent local industrial players from losing out to external competitors. Nigeria apparently expected the closure to strengthen its industries and position it for exports in West Africa.

Trade officials interviewed by the ISS said the closure had probably resulted in new smuggling routes as illicit dealers are determined to move their goods across borders. They acknowledged, however, that products – including rice – are likely to have been smuggled in smaller consignments given the difficulty of driving heavy duty trucks through alternate routes. Already, informal trading via unapproved routes is a long-standing economic practice in local communities.

The Benin-Nigeria border's porosity, with numerous informal routes beyond the reach of customs and immigration officials on both sides, enables individuals and networks to



smuggle goods without detection. The border is over 780 km long and often passes through thick forests and rivers that provide cover for smugglers.

The 2019 closure has been linked to Nigeria's concerns about the short-term impact of the AfCFTA

ISS research reveals instances where goods were smuggled at night using unapproved Benin-Nigeria routes. Local communities, taxi and motorbike riders, small boats and border officials help the illicit trade. Smugglers pay off the officials depending on the size of the consignments and the assistance they provide.

Many of the movements occur around the Okpara River and forest areas in the Borgou Department of Benin, the Porto-Novo Lagoon in Benin to Badagry in Nigeria, and the swampy areas in Benin's Ouémé Department.

Deep socio-economic ties between communities on both sides of the border, especially the Bariba, Fulani, Egun, Haoussa and Yoruba/Nago, enable smugglers to cross with ease. They are aided by familial relations, which blur nationalities.

Border communities also face major governance and developmental problems. The absence or weak presence of the state and the lack of economic opportunities make smuggling a useful source of livelihoods.

Trade officials noted that the closure had probably resulted in the opening of new smuggling routes

Differences in fiscal policies, prices of goods and product preference also underpin smuggling in the region. Some products such as rice, oil and pasta are overtaxed in Nigeria compared to Benin and Togo. These items are imported into

Benin and Togo at lower tax rates and then smuggled to Nigeria for sale.

Nigerians also prefer to source certain products from Benin where they cost less, such as Dutch wax-branded fabrics and second-hand vehicles. And customs clearance processes are easier in Benin than Nigeria, where procedures are cumbersome and time-consuming.

Rather than closing borders, Nigeria and its neighbours should invest in better border security and surveillance, and ensure the development and upliftment of border communities that rely on smuggling as a livelihood source. Doing so requires agreements between the countries concerned on investing in rural development, improving border security and intelligence sharing, tackling corruption among border officials and correcting economic policies that allow smuggling.

Dismantling of network that exploited illegal labourers in France



A network involved in the concealed employment of Moldovan nationals, working under false identities on building sites in France, has been dismantled as the result of a Eurojust-supported joint investigation team (JIT) between the French, Romanian and Moldovan judicial authorities. During an action day, 38 persons were arrested, including the Romanian owner of several French construction companies. This arrest was done by the French authorities on suspicion of trafficking in human beings (THB), facilitating illegal employment, the production of falsified identity documents and money laundering.

In France, the case fell under the jurisdiction of Interregional Specialized Jurisdiction (JIRS) from Lyon at the end of 2018 and is addressing the illegal employment of 100 to 150 construction workers from

Moldova. They were employed by a string of French construction companies. In Romania, a money laundering investigation was opened by the Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) in January 2020.

The victims' identity papers were taken from them and replaced at some point by falsified Romanian documents. The Moldovan illegal workers were paid the French minimum wage, but their weekly working hours greatly exceeded the legal 35 hours, undercutting fair competition in the building sector. The JIT was set up last year between the French, Romanian and Moldovan authorities, with financial support from Eurojust. The investigations followed three strands: into THB and concealed employment in France, money laundering in Romania, with the Moldovan authorities investigating the provision of fake identity documents.

Eurojust organised three coordination meetings to prepare and support the action day, held earlier this week, and assisted in the execution of European Investigation Orders and requests for mutual legal assistance in coordination with the Moldovan authorities. A total of 44 places were searched and 15 luxury cars as well as EUR 100.000 in cash were seized. In total, 11 bank accounts have been frozen. Europol supported the operation by providing analytical support.

More than 36 kilos of methamphetamine and amphetamine valued at almost 900,000 euros intervened

The Guardia Civil and the Tax Agency have carried out operation SNK ZGZ, in which a person has been arrested for a crime against public health after having found more than 36kg of methamphetamine and amphetamine at his home, whose value in the market would amount to almost 900,000 euros.

The investigation began at the beginning of March when the Risk Analysis Unit of the Madrid-Barajas Airport detected a package, originating from the Netherlands, in which a narcotic substance could be found. Once the analysis was carried out on said

sample, it turned out to be PMK METHYL GLYCIDE, a precursor used for the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

These events were taken over by the Organic Unit of the Judicial Police of the Civil Guard of Zaragoza and the Deputy Directorate of Customs Surveillance of the Tax Agency of Aragon, who once determined the identity of the person to whom said shipment was addressed, a man residing in María de Huerva (Zaragoza) and with numerous police records, carried out a search at his home.

Nailing the VVIP drug lords



The police say that more than five drug syndicates in the country are believed to be linked to several VVIPs, and they are closer to taking action against them.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador said it was a matter of time they would be caught.

“My statements are not blank warnings to those funding the illicit trade. We have all the data on them but we still need a few more pieces of evidence that will connect them directly, which we will be getting no matter what,” he said after closing the Orang Asli constable basic course at the General Operations Force (GOF) headquarters.

Abdul Hamid said the Narcotics Crime Investigation Department (NCID) had been conducting weekly raids and confiscating drugs worth billions of ringgit and smashing several syndicates.

He said the NCID was in the process of taking action against drug lords who were found living in luxury by using their legitimate business as a front, making it difficult for the police to obtain information that could link them to drug-trafficking activities.

Police arrest 11 suspects of ‘Anonymous Malaysia’ hacker group

Eleven men, believed to be part of the “Anonymous Malaysia” hacker group, have been detained following six raids conducted by police in Pahang, Johor, Perak and the Klang Valley.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani said the suspects, aged between 22 and 40, were detained following the group’s recent threat to hack the government’s computer system.

Among those arrested by the Commercial Crime Investigation Department of Malaysian police

NCID director Comm Datuk Razarudin Husain also said that three individuals with the titles “Tan Sri” and “Datuk” were suspected to be masterminds of drug cartels, and were hiding behind legitimate businesses such as shipping and transport companies and hotels.

Abdul Hamid said the drug threat to the nation’s economy was real as more than 100,000 addicts were not contributing to the country.

“I hope the Public Service Department (PSD) would heed the plea to recruit more police personnel.

“I admit that some of my officers and personnel have also been arrested for being involved in drugs, but my promise is to continue to instil integrity within the force.

“So I need more personnel as I do not want to be remembered as an IGP who did nothing to combat drugs in the country,” he added.

On enrolling Orang Asli into the Senoi Praaq battalion, Abdul Hamid said he was negotiating with the PSD to relax several conditions without compromising quality.

“The flexibility we are seeking is related to physical, like height. The Orang Asli are generally smaller in size and for the Senoi Praaq battalion, we need nimble and agile persons who are highly skilled at tracking in the forest.

“As for the education requirement, PMR is sufficient. But there are many who have completed Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia joining the battalion and we are hoping to request for a different pay scheme as well,” he said.

“The management department is looking at a standardised programme to promote the Orang Asli with degrees to the rank of inspector.

headquarters, he said, was the administrator of the Anonymous Malaysia Facebook page.

“We will investigate further and ascertain if there are other members of the group,” he told reporters on Thursday (Feb 18) after visiting a Covid-19 police roadblock set up at a Selangor toll plaza.

Datuk Seri Acryl Sani said the group was believed to be responsible for cyber attacks on websites belonging to the government and the private sector.

Operation ‘Great Impact 10’ Seizes Drugs and Illegal Goods



The Ecuadorian National Police, through the National Anti-Drug Investigation Directorate and the Ecuadorian Air Force (FAE), executed the police operation called: “Great Impact 10”, in the province of Santa Elena,

where it apprehended a plane and 400,000 grams of cocaine hydrochloride.

In this same line of work, through the timely exchange of information between the Ecuadorian Air Force (FAE) and the National Anti-Drug Investigation Unit (UIAN), it allowed directing operational actions aimed at avoiding sending 400 rectangular packages of cocaine hydrochloride, which were ready to be put away in a small plane.

Plane that was observed on an asphalt runway in the province of Santa Elena, to later continue its journey, possibly through the air traffic mode. The packages have distinctive logos, through which this type of organization identifies and characterizes the sending of these illicit remittances.

266,000 Smuggled Face Masks Seized by POLFA



The POLFA apprehended 266,000 face masks commercially valued at 437 million pesos, the masks of Asian origin that entered the country without full legal requirements, would be distributed in the city of

Medellín.

The 266,000 units of face masks that would have a commercial value of 437 million pesos, did not have an INVIMA Sanitary Registry, nor with documentation proving their legal entry into the country, for this reason they would have been changed from their original packaging to make them pass as a national product .

So far in 2021, the POLFA has apprehended 3,652,303 masks worth \$ 2,460,009,696 million pesos. The five cities where these elements have been most apprehended are; Bogotá 1,674,140, Valledupar 868,144, Cali 428,010, Barranquilla 276,400 and Ipiales 139,320 units of face masks.

Countering the Transfer of Drugs

Eight intelligence operations have been carried out by the National Police units, so far this year, within ports located in the Atlantic and Pacific of Panama, intercepting 8,232 packages with drugs in containers.

The police action was carried out with the participation of the Drug Prosecutor of Colón and Guna Yala, Eduardo Rodríguez, inside two containers located in the port of Cristóbal.

The container from Nicaragua, makes its transit through Panama, Belgium and its final destination, Great Britain.

The National Police carry out different actions to counteract this and other types of illegal activities, seeking to bring law violators to the judicial authorities.

AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

Customs Enforcement Teams Seized Millions of Liras Worth Commercial Goods in Esenboğa



19 suspects were detained in two operations carried out by the Customs Enforcement Team of the Ministry of Commerce at Esenboğa Airport.

The Customs Enforcement Teams, who are continuing their smuggling activities at Esenboğa Airport, did not stop smuggling with two operations they organized. 195 beaver and 55 fox skins were captured.

The teams started a study on the notification that a passenger will come to Esenboğa Airport with a large number of animal skins.

The results of research on risk analysis prior to the subject of the future of

passenger information Turkey, when the person in question, which is next to the airport plane was detected.

BOC-POM, PDEA Seizes P5 Million Worth of Ecstasy



Through the combined efforts of BOC Port of Manila Customs Postal Office, CMEC-NAIA, CAIDTF, CIIS, and PDEA, a controlled delivery operation was conducted which resulted in the arrest of the claimant, a certain Agatha Lavadia Palen. The claimant bared the authorization letter to receive the parcel containing the drugs which were consigned to a certain Zhyelle Marquez Ancheta. Originally declared as Orthopedic jelly shoes, flexible led mirror, dust buster, hand mixer, and birdhouse display, the package was

verified to contain a total of 3,100 various tablets of ecstasy estimated to have a value of Php 5.270 Million..

Ireland's entry into EU database enhances cross-border crime fighting

Ireland's entry into an EU-wide system for the sharing of data on criminals and missing persons has been hailed as a "game changer" in the fight against cross-border crime.

The European Union's Schengen Information System (SIS 2), shares real-time data on crime suspects and fugitives with border agents to tackle Europe-wide crime.

Access to the computer network used by police forces in 30 countries means gardaí who check passports at entry points into Ireland will receive real-time information on people who are accused or convicted of crimes in EU and associated countries including Norway and Switzerland.

Gardaí in Ireland will be able to issue EU-wide alerts of missing people,

crime suspects or stolen property such as identity documents or cars so they can be sought across Europe. The system has been used in the past to locate terrorists affiliated to the Islamic State in Europe and to locate missing children.

Mexico Plan to Contain Migration on Guatemala Border



Mexico is preparing to significantly reinforce efforts to detain migrants who illegally cross its border with Guatemala in response to a jump in people trying to enter the United States, according to four people familiar with the matter.

Mexico plan to deploy security forces to cut the flow of migrants, the bulk of whom come from three poor and often violent Central American countries whose economies have been battered in the coronavirus pandemic – the so-called Northern Triangle of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

Thailand to build organizational quarantine border facilities for migrant workers

Thai Cabinet has approved a budget of 438.08 million baht to create 14 organizational quarantine (OQ) border facilities for migrant workers, those who cross the border illegally and human smugglers who have been



arrested in seven provinces – Tak's Mae Sot district, Chiang Rai, Ranong, Songkhla, Chanthaburi, Sa Kaeo and Nong Khai – including preparing field hospitals in case of a health emergency, government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri said.

Mr. Anucha said the OQ project would run from April until September. 52.87 million baht would be used for improving border police facilities to make them a proper quarantine area and another Bt385.21 million would go for prefabricated hospital field tents with 250 beds.

The project would serve both Thais and foreign workers as the government attempts to control the spread of COVID-19.

Algeria's move to kick out Moroccan farmers from border area opens up eastern border issue



Moroccan farmers have amassed whatever they could take after Algerian authorities addressed them an ultimatum to leave a border area near Figuig which they have cultivated for generations. They are victims of

arbitrary colonial borders on the one hand and of an Algerian hostile regime to anything Moroccan, on the other.

In the area of EL Arja near Figuig border city, dozens of farmers have been planting palm trees and other local crops on the other bank of the river where Algerian authorities and army officials asked them to leave or risk being arrested.

So far, Moroccan authorities did not comment save a statement from local governor who said he was in contact with farmers and that the measures by the Algerian authorities were temporary.

The expulsion of Moroccan farmers raised painful memories of what Moroccans call the black march when Algerian president Houari Boumediene expelled more than 300,000 Moroccans and confiscated their possessions.

Analysts have raised the right of private property which has nothing to do with border delimitation. What is at stake in the area of Figuig is that farmers are deprived from accessing their private property by the Algerian authorities..

BVI's border restrictions cause stockpile of drugs for police to find



The government's border restrictions that have been in place for a year now has caused an irregular build-up of illicit drugs in the territory.

Police Commissioner Michael

Matthews put forward that hypothesis during a joint press conference to discuss the state of crime in the BVI with Premier Andrew Fahie and Governor John Rankin.

Matthews said this positioned the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) to make major drug busts such as the 2,300 kilos of cocaine seized back in November 2020.

"I believe that it is possible that the effective COVID travel restrictions that our government have placed on the territory in order to protect us all has created a stockpile and that's the reason for such large quantities being found here," the commissioner stated.

Man runs bogus immigration office at the border

A 44-year-old man believed to be part of a syndicate running a bogus immigration office in Beitbridge, South Africa, was arrested by border officials during a sting operation.

Thomas Chidza was nabbed after having allegedly assisted a South African bus crew member to enter the country by endorsing his passport with a fake immigration stamp.

He was found with three immigration stamps, three rubber stencils, and several ink pads among other tools of the trade.

The Assistant Regional Immigration Officer (ARIO) in charge of Beitbridge Mr Nqobile Ncube said Chidza was now in police custody pending a court appearance.

Turkey arrests 3 FETÖ suspects on Greek border



At least three suspected members of the Gülenist Terror Group (FETÖ) trying to flee to Greece were arrested in Turkey's northwestern Edirne province, a security source said Sunday.

The suspects, identified only by their initials B.C., I.C. and M.O., were nabbed in the Meriç district and handed over to the district's gendarmerie command.

Four other FETÖ suspects were arrested last week in the same area. The suspects are facing trial for membership of the terrorist group responsible for the 2016 coup attempt.

Over 8,000 FETÖ members have crossed into Greece in the past three years, and Turkey has criticized the country for ignoring Ankara's calls for international cooperation against the terrorist group. Turkey has repeatedly accused Greece of being a haven for terrorists who have committed crimes against Turkish citizens..

National phone scam impersonating border protection agents targets Madawaskans' banking information

A new phone scam targeting residents'



banking information is being reported across the country, including in Madawaska. The call is a prerecorded message, where a voice impersonates a Customs and Border Protection officer.

The call may be disguised to appear that it's coming from a local number.

People are reporting that the call states that "A box of drugs and money being shipped has your (resident's) name on it and it has been intercepted," according to Customs and Border Protection. The message then tells the recipient to press 1 to speak with an officer or agent, redirecting them to a message soliciting their banking information..

India tightens border security after 20 cross over from Myanmar



India has tightened security in its northeastern states bordering Myanmar in view of people escaping the turmoil in that country after the recent military coup.

A senior government officials said that at least 20 people, including some security forces personnel, have crossed over to Mizoram's Lungkawlh village from Myanmar.

A senior police official said that security has been tightened in the districts bordering Myanmar. "We are not taking chances and have raised vigil to ensure that militant groups don't intrude into this country," he said.

Italian police discover migrants hidden in truck



Six Afghan citizens were discovered in a truck in northern Italy. They had reportedly paid €1,500 each to travel from Romania to Italy. A smuggler had allegedly hidden them in the bed of the truck without the driver's knowledge.

Italian Carabinieri police discovered the six people in the bed of a truck at a logistics center in Calderara di Reno, in the Bologna area, on Wednesday. Three of the migrants were reportedly minors.

The police intervened after receiving reports of suspicious noises coming from inside the truck. When they opened the truck door, which was accessible only from the outside, they found the group of migrants.

FEMA to Deploy to U.S. Border Where 4,200 Migrant Children Are Being Held

The Biden administration has instructed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help process the increasing number of unaccompanied migrant children arriving in the U.S. Some 4,200 children were being detained in overcrowded Border Patrol facilities, where some of them have reportedly been held for a week or longer, forced to sleep on the floor, unable to shower, and were not allowed to call their families to alert them of their whereabouts. Reports that the Biden administration has opened a new temporary detention facility in Texas which will hold children until they're placed in a government shelter or released to family members or sponsors. House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, who blamed the Biden administration for the increase of migrant children arriving to the U.S., is leading a group of Republican lawmakers to the southern border in Texas.

BSF boosts vigil at Indo-Bangla border after militants found taking 'special interest' in Tripura ADC polls



A day after Tripura Police said outlawed insurgents hiding across the border in Bangladesh were found taking

special interest in Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) polls, the Border Security Force (BSF) said vigil was tightened along the Indo-Bangla international border in view of the ADC polls, risk of illegal Rohingya infiltration and to thwart militant threats.

Director General of Tripura Police VS Yadav said that outlawed National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) commander Parimal Debbarma, 45, was arrested at Mizoram. The official said the outlawed outfit was found to be taking "special interest" in the tribal council polls based on interrogation of NLFT ultras who surrendered or were arrested recently.

In an interaction with media, BSF Inspector General (IG) of Tripura Frontiers Sushanta Nath said the border sentinels have tightened vigil along the border in view of the upcoming district council polls, to thwart any militant threats and to prevent illegal immigration of Rohingya refugees..

31 suspects arrested for cross-border telecom fraud in Yilan

Police have arrested 31 Taiwanese suspects in Yilan County in a cross-border telecom fraud case in which Chinese victims were bilked out of NT\$7 million (US\$248,189), the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) said.

Acting on a tip-off, law enforcement authorities raided scam call centers in two residential units in the county that were allegedly rented by a member of a gang from Kaohsiung to handle day-to-day operations, according to the CIB.

COVID-19 AND 2021 GLOBAL BORDER SECURITY CHALLENGES

by Igwe Martin, Director Media & Advocacy, WAANSA Nigeria

Covid-19 the disease caused by the novel Corona virus was first reported officially in Wuhan City, China in December 2019, while some of the earliest known cases had a link to the wholesale food market in Wuhan, their store owners and some regular visitors to the market tested positive (WHO Covid-19 Report 94).

The pandemic has disrupted both supply and demand of goods and services within borders in interconnected world economy. On the supply side, infection reduced international/trans-border labour supply while lockdown, business closure and social distancing also caused tremendous disruptions. On the demand side, lay off and the loss of income worsened



(Picture from Guardian Nigeria News)

economic prospects, heightened unemployment, hunger and all social indices “capable of worsening global border security (www.aa.com.fr).

Nigeria lost 20 doctors in one week; a country where when a doctor dies ten thousand lives are put at health risk. Nigeria investment promotion council has predicted the reduction of foreign direct investment by 50% in 2021, Covid-19 has heightened the vulnerability of migrants to the risk of human trafficking and smuggling. Migrants from Cambodia cannot enter Thailand as strict measures have been put in place to stop another pandemic surge. Years of comprehensively neglecting of humanitarian needs of refugees and migrants in Turkey-Greece border collided with Covid-19 to create untenable social security situation,

Trump Administration which eliminated access to asylum at the American-Mexico border expelled more than 315000 between March 2020 – December, 2020.

Dr. Raj Panjabi an adviser to former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Covid 19 has confirmed that 7000 unprotected health workers have died, he continued by confirming that over one trillion dollar of work, services done by women in healthcare went unpaid. Victims of these may have no choice than to find desperate survival alternative. Tuberculosis patients, campaign to battle malaria, polio, AIDS, Hepatitis were all left in disarray.

On March 24th 2020, 78 Ethiopia migrants were crammed to be moved into Mozambique across the Northern border with Malawi.

Noticing noise inside the lorry, Mozambican authorities opened the lorry and found dead bodies of 64 migrants along with 14 survivors.

They were being smuggled along the popular southern wall towards South Africa (Policy Brief Global Institute against transnational organized crime, April 2020).

The emerging threat which poses, acute danger to human life, is the sale of falsified medical products online by organized cross-border criminal syndicates targeting individuals health facilities and public agencies, continued cyber attack targeting health agencies and worse of it all criminal online sexual abuse targeting illegal migrants who are more vulnerable to exploitation.

Global Border Security managers are likely going to face different challenges as global mobility is shrinking due to government policies, such policies will not stop people being displaced from their homes, asylum seekers and migrants attempting dangerous journey to cross land or sea borders in search of safety and economic opportunity.

2021 is likely going to be a border security challenging year as corona virus has exacerbated the factors pushing people to migrate and engage in trans-border crimes while rendering internally displaced camp more dangerous and recruiting ground for trans-border criminals.



These disturbing developments have provided governments with excuses of implementing hard line often dubious migration policies. The ever-growing challenging nature of threats of trans-border crimes, whether by man made through terrorism or activities of cyber attacks call for the need to continually review and update policies practice and technologies to meet up with the challenges this new year. African leaders must also unite and revolutionize Agriculture at least to fight hunger and poverty and set a stage for African green revolution. International co-operation through the convention against transnational crime is more urgent than ever.

World border security congress can reduce the pressure of trans-border crime by networking, encouraging global leaders to see the need to improve business environment, integrate youth in

governance, appeal to international policy makers, to engage in policies capable of increasing public trust and confidence and above all strengthen transparency and good governance. During a holiday visit to Cote d'Ivoire more than a decade ago, we met with potential illegal migrants in San Pedro Port, the second largest port in Ivory Coast. They were all graduates from Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia with reasonable amount of financial resources capable of initiating productive economic engagement in their respective countries but they have lost hope in their respective countries and according to them, they are ready to become refugees in any country that can receive them. The energy of these desperate illegal migrants can be transformed to positive value to their countries if structures are put in place to accommodate their concerns.

While acknowledging that 2020 was a very tough year that put to test global resilience and ability to survive tough cross-border criminal challenges and with criminal networks looking for desperate ways to profit from the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 it is critical (as advised by United Nation Secretary) for governments to unite in combating human trafficking, gun smuggling and other cross border crimes. Exposing the crimes itself, educating the world on the dangers of these crime to sustainable development which world border security congress has professionally engaged must be encouraged by both private and public Global Peace actors, objectively committed to end organized trans-border crime.

When the going gets tough, the tough keeps going.

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FREEPORTS: THE CHALLENGE OF CYBER SECURITY

Freeports will be enclaves – at least from a tax perspective – that are digitally interconnected with the ‘outside world’ and this exposes them to a range of cyber threats: from low-level security issues to full-blown geopolitical campaigns. So as the UK gets set to welcome eight Freeports as local and national innovation ecosystems and hotbeds for innovation, their need for resilient digital systems must be a priority, says John Connolly, Head of Security Architecture and Assurance Consulting at Atkins.

The government’s Freeports Bidding Prospectus (published November 2020) states that it wants Freeports to: “unleash the deep potential of our port regions to help create the next generation of jobs, prosperity and opportunity for this country...” While much consideration is currently being given to the physical security of Freeports, such as goods moving across multiple sites within their

boundaries for customs, auditing and taxation purposes, or the height of security fences, these factors are only a small part of the overall security landscape we should now be looking at.

A big opportunity for the UK’s cyber security expertise

In the March 2021 Budget announcement, Rishi Sunak announced the location of eight

Freeport sites. The coming of the UK's Freeports give us good reason to be more ambitious when it comes to cyber resilience. This is an opportunity for the UK to set itself apart as a world-leader in secure, intelligent borders – demonstrated by how we will protect our Freeport operations from the playbooks of would-be attackers.

Last year, the Government launched its 2025 UK Border Strategy Public Consultation, to gather the views and expertise of stakeholders in order to form a robust and clear pathway “for delivering the world’s most effective border by 2025”. I believe that a rethink of the UK’s borders also provides a once in a generation chance to develop and deliver world-leading border processes, and I hope the sentiment was echoed by others who contributed to the consultation. The processes that are created must have the power to underpin seamless, data-driven entry and exit to the UK for legitimate goods and people and embrace the challenge of digital transformation. This, I believe, is absolutely key to their success.

Borders beyond the physical realm

This border strategy should also help to develop our current concept of borders beyond the purely physical realm towards a ‘system of systems’ that recognises digital and physical interdependencies at the border. Freeports present the perfect model by which we can deliver on this concept; they are



faced with many challenges when it comes to data sharing.

Ambitions may be high, and benefits significant, but so are the risks. Imagine all the means and ways that data can be shared for the benefit of the greater good: in harnessing the strategic trends of big data for port logistics, autonomous Ro-Ro shipping, biosecurity technologies tracking the movement of people, and the visual data capture of vehicles entering or leaving a Freeport.

Making it safe to share

There will be a great appetite and need to share data – but alongside that, an inevitable nervousness of collaboration with the potential for cyber criminality or loss of intellectual property rights, where the overall network will only be as strong as its weakest link. So, this is the time for consortia to think about the practical steps they need to start taking to ensure their cyber resilience is a priority, as Freeports will be treated as key national

infrastructure.

It’s time for consortia to ask: what will be their cyber resilient vision? What kind of data will they need to share and protect? What common language will they use? What skills will they need to reach their objectives? Because regulations will apply, and Freeports – which will operate locally, contribute nationally, but are exposed globally – will have to make regular submissions to the Government on National Information Security Standards.

All parties involved in sharing data within a Freeport boundary will inevitably need to be connected to the internet, and most are likely to use or consider migrating to cloud-based information technology (IT) services.

The risks to the confidentiality, integrity and availability of data could have a devastating impact on the organisation: on reputation, on financial consequences, either directly or indirectly, and by creating disrupted operations; even public

safety and environmental incidents.

The need for a common standard

Having lots of disparate new and legacy digital systems in operation also gives the opportunity for hardware not to be patched or managed consistently or configured correctly. This means every stakeholder operating within the Freeport is even more exposed in cyberspace to a variety of threats – with its perilous traps such as phishing, water-holing and ransomware. This means even at the most basic level, a common standard must be introduced. At present, the different modes of roads, rail, sea and air may be talking about the same systems, but each has a very different regulatory framework. A cyber attack does not recognise these domains and what differentiates them.

Standards have a part to play in providing a framework to identifying and managing cyber risk, too. These are specific to the organisation's needs and the services they provide. International standards such as ISO27000 give organisations a solid foundation and enable them to identify controls to their systems, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) provides a comprehensive eco-system of standards under a core framework. This is centred around an organisation's ability to identify, protect, detect, respond and recover from a cyber attack.

Potential sources of risk:



Towards greater long-term flexibility

National Information Systems Regulation (NIS-R) is more applicable to those within the UK critical national infrastructure who are subject to the NIS Directive Cyber regulation and those managing cyber risks that may impact public safety. Even those who don't currently fall within these categories may be driven towards a regulatory requirement by their evolving business strategy. Adopting NIS-R offers greater long-term flexibility should they head this way. Cyber resilience also offers a competitive advantage. Adopting standards, and implementing their controls, is a major step forward – but understanding maturity and setting goals enables an organisation to stand out from the competition and further attract business. This is especially

relevant to high tech and critical infrastructure investments.

Streamlining IT processes and improving and automating systems will inevitably cut costs through the need for less administration – currently estimated to make up some 70% of the price of goods. Added to which, a secure data layer across Freeport operations will mean that, for example, a manufacturing business will know exactly where its components are, in near real time, and operate a much more efficient business. And this could prove another welcome side effect of Freeports, in their role as engines of innovation backed by data interfaces, data standards, and good cyber security.

Ensuring essential cyber resilience

So, protecting Freeports, as part of the UK's national infrastructure,



Seven steps to driving cyber resilience within Freeports

1. Ensure the business strategy addresses the challenges of cyber resilience
2. Demand that risk management processes include cyber resilience
3. Identify the impact that a cyber-attack might have on critical assets and understand how that might happen
4. Build a culture of cyber awareness – it’s a collective responsibility
5. Ensure compliance to agreed standards and use best practice in hardening systems
6. Work with the supply chain to understand strengths and weaknesses.
7. Monitor networks, look for trends, and act on them.

will be crucial. This activity should cover many aspects of a Freeport’s operations, from the more visible estate – such as precision-timed port gantry systems – to asset tracking and shipping manifests that are linked to tax payments. In this latter example, assets would move from one location to another – with payments demanded being based on gantry data. But undermine this process, and the trust in port operators’ ability to handle goods safely and securely – and therefore ensure correct charging – is severely eroded; inevitably attracting much interest from financial and insurance underwriters.

So, at the very least, there will need to be a service-level-type agreement across all Freeport operators, big and small, global conglomerates to local SMEs, that if

they are connected to the internet, they must demonstrate they are protecting themselves. This is by taking the obvious measures of regular backups and antivirus software updates, but also by signing up to schemes such as Cyber Essentials, developed by the National Cyber Security Centre.

Other means could include all companies within the Freeport and beyond – including suppliers – having to apply a cyber security maturity model to their operations, to determine the level they are at, or taking an aggregated approach depending on business type and size.

Not implementing such recommendations as a matter of priority could come at a great cost: not only to Freeports’ overarching cyber resilience – but also in terms of protecting these important new parts of the UK’s infrastructure.

Operation Irini signs a working arrangement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime signed a working arrangement via VTC, due to Covid-19 restrictions. The virtual ceremony was held by Admiral Fabio Agostini, Operation Irini Commander, and Ghada Waly, UNODC Executive Director.

“The cooperation between our organizations is vital and an extremely valuable instrument at the disposal of the International Community as a whole in its effort to support the Libyan Peace process, launched in Berlin in January last year.” Admiral Agostini said during the virtual ceremony.

“UNODC welcomes this partnership with EUNAVFOR

MED Operation Irini and looks forward to bringing the Working Arrangement into practice in an impactful way that benefits Libya and the broader region,” said Ms. Waly. “Our programmes against maritime crime, firearms trafficking, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants will engage with EUNAVFOR MED at the working level to join efforts to combat UN sanctions violations and migrant smuggling in the Mediterranean.”

With this working arrangement, there is now the opportunity to exploit the cooperation between the two organizations on the fields of the exchange of information and training. It envisages mutual support in order to identify and analyse criminal activities related to illicit arms trafficking, illicit export of petroleum from Libya as well as human smuggling and trafficking. The cooperation will therefore enhance even more the role as main international stakeholders engaged in enforcing the respect of the United Nation Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, this cooperation includes also, pursuant to relevant mandates, contributing to the development of capacities and training of the Libyan Navy and Coast Guard in border control and law enforcement tasks at sea.

PRODUCT FOCUS

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

*For the world's border protection,
management and security industry
policy-makers and practitioners*

In this interview with Stuart Haycock, Managing Director of Airborne Industries, Tony Kingham, Editor of Border Security Report magazine, discuss Aerostats, their role in border security, their strengths and limitations.



BORDER MANAGEMENTS ANNUAL GATHERING

EVENT PREVIEW



NEW DATES

5th-7th OCTOBER 2021
Athens, Greece
www.world-border-congress.com

In view of the ongoing challenges created by the global coronavirus pandemic, and in consultation with our local and international partners and sponsors, we have regretfully taken the decision to postpone World Border Security Congress to 5th-7th October 2021.

This is to ensure that as many of the delegates from around the world that have already registered to attend, will be able to, ensuring a successful and productive event.

Unfortunately, this action was unavoidable, and we really appreciated the patience, support and understanding of all those involved.

We are delighted that the Ministry of Migration and Asylum for Greece has concurred with this decision and plans to join us for the rescheduled Congress.

Since our last congress, in March 2019, the world has changed, and once again the border management community is in the front line of those changes.

Unprecedented national lockdowns and border closures have happened the world over and new technologies have been rushed into service.

Changes in the traveller information requirements have been put in place unilaterally by individual countries and

Co-hosted by:



continue to evolve.

What is certain is that the pandemic has changed forever, international travel and therefore border management.

Added impetus has now been attached to implementing and enhancing Advanced Passenger Information (API) sharing.

All this against a backdrop of continued issues of mass migration, human trafficking, drug smuggling and terrorism.

There is much to be discussed, and this year's World Border Congress will be one of the first opportunities for the border community to gather together to discuss the challenges going forward.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

We need to continue the discussion, collaboration and intelligence sharing.

The World Border Security Congress is the premier multi-jurisdictional transnational platform where the border protection, management

and security industry policy-makers and practitioners convene to discuss the international challenges faced in protecting borders.

Co-hosted by the Ministry of Immigration & Sylum and supported by the Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Association of Airport and Seaport Police (EAASP), the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC), National Security & Resilience Consortium, International Security Industry Organisation and International Association of CIP Professionals, the World Border Security Congress remains the premier multi-jurisdictional global platform where the international border management and protection policy makers and practitioners and community gathers to share views, thoughts and challenges.

As well as the 3 day main congress agenda, the event will also have a series of Closed Agency Only Workshops and opportunities for delegates to visit Athens International Airport of Piraeus Seaport during the Site Visits being hosted. Great opportunities to gain insights into how operational and technological aspects combine for successful border security, migration and cargo management.

Register your interest to attend the event at www.world-border-congress.com/registration.

We look forward to welcoming you to Athens, Greece on 24th-26th November 2020.

Further details can be viewed at www.world-border-congress.com.

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Closed Agency Workshops

FOR BORDER AGENCIES, AGENCIES AT THE BORDER AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ONLY

The World Border Security Congress aims to promote collaboration, inter-agency cooperation and information/intelligence sharing amongst border agencies and agencies at the border to better engage and tackle the increasing threats and cross border security challenges that pertain to today’s global environment.

Border agencies and agencies at the border can benefit from the ‘Closed Agency Only Workshops’, hosted by the Ministry of Citizen Protection, Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) with a series of behind closed door discussion and working group opportunities.

This years Closed Agency Only Workshop topics are:

Challenges of Inter-Agency And International Information Sharing

Chair: TBC

Legacy information systems, lack of trust, lack of sharing mechanisms, lack of a designated international agency all contribute to a lack of information sharing. Integrated Border Management (IBM) is based on the premise that agencies and the international community need to work together to achieve common aims that benefit all parties. Information sharing becomes increasingly effective as border management agencies gather, collate and share more data, but how is this to be achieved.

Disrupting People Trafficking Routes

Chair: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Human trafficking is one of the largest criminal enterprises in the world. It is a multi-billion dollar criminal business on a global scale. This is because human trafficking is a high profit, low risk enterprise that is also a low priority for most law enforcement agencies, meaning apprehension of perpetrators is low and sentences are often minimal compared that of major crimes. What can be done to disrupt trafficking routes and gangs?

Biometrics - next steps

Chair: Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Biometrics are here to stay and are an increasingly valuable tool in making borders secure. But what are the next steps and developments and implementation in biometric technology and how biometrics is lawfully used to help on the border, considering aspects such as GDPR and travel document security.

Register online at www.world-border-congress.com/agency-reg

AFRICAN UNION ECOSOCC WORKSHOP

MIGRATION - CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN AFRICA



Tuesday 5th October 2021 : 9.30am - 12:30pm

The Social Affairs and Health Cluster Committee in conjunction with Committee on Political Affairs of the AU-ECOSOCC, will be hosting a Workshop on the margins of the Congress to understudy the situation and proffer necessary solutions that will address the issues of Migration in Africa.

Africa is continuously losing its young, vibrant human resources and future through irregular migration, leading through the path of death to Europe and other developed Nations. This has continued to lead to loss of thousands of lives, brain drain and depletion of Africa’s human resources.

The situation has become a global topical issue with Africa at the receiving end. We believe that the time has come for us to look inwards. The Workshop therefore is expected to identify the root causes, share experience with local and international development partners and civil society organizations with a view to curbing irregular migration of African youths and even families to Europe.

The Side Event with the theme “Migration - Creating Opportunities for Young People In Africa” will be highly interactive with Keynote presentations, Panel discussions centered on a meaningful dialogue among participants and stakeholders.

Delegates of the World Border Security Congress are entitled to participate in the AU-ECOSOCC Workshop “Migration - Creating Opportunities for Young People In Africa”.

Register online at www.world-border-congress.com



CONGRESS PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 5TH OCTOBER

1:30pm - 2:00pm **MINISTERIAL OPENING AND WELCOME**2:15pm - 3:30pm **OPENING KEYNOTE**

Mr Notis Mitarachi, Minister of Migration & Asylum of Greece
 Chief of Greek National Police*
 Chief of Hellenic Coast Guard*
 TBC

4:00pm - 5:30pm **PLENARY SESSION - THE LATEST THREATS AND CHALLENGES AT THE BORDER**

With the final collapse of the so-called IS Caliphate, returning foreign fighters are a particular challenge for the next few years, but mass migration, transiting terrorists, cross border organised crime, human trafficking, small arms, weapons of mass destruction and drug smuggling will continue to be areas of major concern for the global border community.

Latest threats and challenges in the Central Asia

Sharipov Zafar, Tajik Border Troops & Abdulloev Khairullo, Tajik Customs Service, Tajikistan

Insider Threats at Ports

Peter Nilsson, Head of Airpol
 Senior Representative, INTERPOL Washington
 Senior Representative, Greek National Police

David Bannister, Chief Inspector - Counter Terrorism Border Operations Centre, Counter Terrorism Policing – National Operations Centre (CTP-NOC)*

Carlos Dettleff Beros, General Director for Borders, The National Department of State Borders and Boundaries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile



WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER

9:00am - 10:30am **PLENARY SESSION - CONTINUING EFFORTS AGAINST FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS, IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

How we deal with foreign terrorist fighters, irregular migration and human trafficking are inextricably linked. Because it is through clandestine trafficking networks that foreign fighters will attempt to return to their countries of origin or to other destinations. They may also attempt to return through conventional travel networks by the use of forged or lookalike documents. Or they may hide among genuine refugees as we have already seen. These experienced fighters pose a real threat to their communities. API and PNR are part of the answer but what else can we do to meet this challenge?

The use of API/PNR data to fight trafficking in Human Beings and people smuggling

Valdecy Urquiza, Assistant Director - Vulnerable Communities - INTERPOL General Secretariat

Alvaro Rodriguez-Gaya, Head of Strategy, European Migrant Smuggling Centre, EUROPOL

Strengthening National Referral Mechanisms to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings - Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, OSCE

Gerald Tatzgern, Head of Joint Operational Office, Public Security Austria

The fight against illegal migrants and corruptions on border crossing points - Ph. D. Vladimir Pivovarov, National coordinator for integrated border management, Ministry of Interior, North Macedonia

AIG Moses Ambakina Jitoboh mni, Assistant Inspector General of Police, Nigeria

Achieving Effective Border Security in Africa through Youth Engagement - Jude Gabriel Imagwe MON, Chief Executive, Advance for World Unity

9.15AM - 10.30AM **TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP**

See some of the latest border tech solutions demonstrated and discussed during the Technology Workshop.

The Future of Automated Border Control: Making an Informed Decision - Christopher Gilliland, Director, Innovative Travel Solutions, Vancouver Airport Authority

The Need for Client-Owned Open Source Frameworks for Integration of Sensors - Sean Buckley, PMP, Program Director, Parsons

TBC - Senior Representative, Smiths Detection

Future Technologies for improving Border Security - Radu Pop, Head of Sales, Infrastructure and Frontier Security Solutions, Airbus Defence & Space & Michael Edwards, Director of Business Development & Technical Sales eGovernment, Veridos

How Technology and Collaboration between nations enable focus on detecting Foreign Terrorist Fighters - Andy Smith, Director, Global Government & Industry Relations, Border Management & Immigration Services, SITA

Beyond the Passport: Truth, Lies or Threats? - Dr. Enrique Segura, president and CEO of Securiport

11:15AM - 12:30PM WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING IN BORDER AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Enhancing capacity and migration management through by improved technical support and knowledge; administrative ability; promoting mechanisms for co-operation and the exchange of expertise between migration management personnel and the strengthening the monitoring and oversight.

Nélson Goncalves, Immigration and Border Management Training Specialist, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Capacity Building and Design Thinking - Dr Katerina Poustourli, Scientific/Technical Officer, International University of Greece

Global Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme - Margherita Natali, Associate Programme Officer, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, Counter Terrorism Centre, Border Security and Management Unit

Olasunkanmi John Oba - Nigerian Representative, AU-ECOSOCC

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - CHALLENGES OF INTER-AGENCY AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION SHARING

Chair: TBC

Legacy information systems, lack of trust, lack of sharing mechanisms, lack of a designated international agency all contribute to a lack of information sharing. Integrated Border Management (IBM) is based on the premise that agencies and the international community need to work together to achieve common aims that benefit all parties. Information sharing becomes increasingly effective as border management agencies gather, collate and share more data, but how is this to be achieved.

BSRBCC (Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation) – A model for long term cross-border cooperation – Hans-Peter Wagner, National Expert, Senior Chief Inspector, Federal Police, Germany

Alvaro Rodriguez-Gaya, Head of Strategy, European Migrant Smuggling Centre, EUROPOL

Delimitation and demarcation of state boundaries as a significant element of improving border security and cooperation between neighbors with a focus on the Balkans, the current situation and challenges - Mile Milenkoski, Senior adviser, Department for borders, passports and overflights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of North Macedonia

Trade Facilitation and National Security: The Need for Border Coordination and Cooperation - Sanusi Tasiu Saulawa, Deputy Superintendent, Nigeria Customs

Big Data Strategy - migration trends and risks - Florian Forster, Head, Immigration and Border Management (IBM), International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2:00pm - 3:30pm

**PLENARY SESSION - SECURING THE LITTORAL BORDER:
UNDERSTANDING THREATS AND CHALLENGES FOR MARITIME BORDERS**

Our coastline borders present huge security challenges for the border community. With dramatically varied terrain from mountains and cliffs to beaches and swamps. Tens of thousands of kilometers of extended coastline with multiple lonely bays, inlets, estuaries and Islands that can all be exploited by terrorists, illegal migrants, drug and arms smugglers, human traffickers and organised crime. How do we secure this complex and challenging environment?

Rear Admiral Mohammed Ashraf Haque, Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard Force

Cristina Gatões, National Director, Portuguese Immigration and Border Service (SEF)

Jim Nye, Assistant Chief Constable - Innovation, Contact & Demand & NPCC Maritime Lead, Devon & Cornwall Police, UK

Rear Admiral Enrico Credendino, Italian Navy EUNAVFORMED

Senior Representative, Hellenic Coast Guard

Vice Admiral Aan Kurnia, Director General, Indonesia Maritime Security Agency

2.15PM - 3.30PM

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

See some of the latest border tech solutions demonstrated and discussed during the Technology Workshop.

Mobile Biometrics: Revolutionizing Border Security and Efficiency

David Gerulski, Senior Vice President, Global Sales & Marketing, Integrated Biometrics

Smart Borders start with AI-powered solutions

Senior Representative, Cellebrite

Addressing the challenge of land and sea borders

Nicholas Phan, Market Manager Border Control and Passenger Flow Facilitation, IDEMIA

Now Is The Time For The Right Kind of RADAR At Borders

Senior Representative, Blighter Surveillance Systems

Border Security – AI and Human Machine Teaming - Paul Hollingshead, Head of EMEA, Anduril Industries, Inc



4:15PM - 5:30PM WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT SESSION - PRE-TRAVEL RISK ASSESSMENT AND TRUSTED TRAVELLERS

With a plethora of trusted traveller programs around the world, how can we make legitimate travel more seamless? Is it possible to provide better connectivity between programs? How can API/PNR play a role on pre-travel risk assessment.

Europe Travel Information & Authorisation System (ETIAS)

Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Migration & Home Affairs, European Commission

EU's Entry-Exit System (EES) - Borders Are Fixed But Identification Must Be Mobile

Rein Suld, Program Manager, Information Technology & Development Center, SMIT (Estonian Ministry of the Interior)

Integrated identification process: The case of Germany

Heiko Werner, Head of Security Group, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - DISRUPTING PEOPLE TRAFFICKING ROUTES**Chair: International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

Human trafficking is one of the largest criminal enterprises in the world. It is a multi-billion dollar criminal business on a global scale. This is because human trafficking is a high profit, low risk enterprise that is also a low priority for most law enforcement agencies, meaning apprehension of perpetrators is low and sentences are often minimal compared that of major crimes. What can be done to disrupt trafficking routes and gangs?

Border Development, Security and Migration Management in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects

Asogwa Dominic Obetta, Comptroller, Nigeria Immigration Service

Uche Chukwuma Azuka-Osadebe – Executive Chairman, Oshimili South Local Government Council of Delta State

Gabor Kemeny, OSCE Skopje

THURSDAY 7TH OCTOBER9:00am - 10:30am **PLENARY SESSION - THE DEVELOPING ROLE OF BIOMETRICS IN IDENTITY MANAGEMENT & DOCUMENT FRAUD**

Formal identification is a prerequisite for effective border control. Document fraud has become an enabler of terrorism and organised crime and is linked to the trafficking of human beings and migrant smuggling. Facial recognition, fingerprinting and iris scan are now maturing technologies with increasing accuracy and performance. What is the developing and future role of biometrics in managing identity and our borders, and how are associated technologies best utilised to bridge the gap and underdocumentation, so widespread in the developing world?

The Malpensa e-Gates Project - A user perspective on e-Gates security and usability at the Malpensa Airport

Guido Ferraro di Silva e Castiglione, Commander (ITA Coast Guard, Res), Transport and Border Security Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Biometrics on the Move and SEF Mobile - Helio Freixial, IT Expert – Smart Borders PT Project manager, Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service

Image Manipulation Attack Resolving Solutions (iMARS) - Christoph Busch, Member of the Board at European Association for Biometrics

Angelisa Corbo, Border Adviser, OSCE

Dr Anna Makakala, Tanzania Immigration Service

Nosakhare Igbinere – Executive Director, The Major Resources Nigeria

9.15AM - 10.30AM **AIRPOL WORKSHOP - INSIDER THREAT - SETTING UP AN INSIDER MITIGATION PROGRAM**

A step-by-step discussion to setting up an insider mitigation program, including risk assessment/vulnerabilities according to the AIRPOL model and what co-operation is required when setting up the insider mitigation program.

Host: Peter Nilsson, Head of AIRPOL



11:15AM - 12:30PM WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - SMUGGLING & TRADE IN ILLICIT GOODS, ANTIQUITIES AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The global trade in endangered species, over 1.5million transactions per year, will drive some species to extinction if the trade is not stopped. The cultural damage inflicted by the global trade in antiquities, valued over \$20 billion, cannot be quantified but is all too easily understood. So, what can the border community do to stem the flow and illegal trade of illicit goods, antiquities and endangered species?

Chair: Orfeas-Konstantinos Sotiriou

Antiquities Smuggling as Transnational Threat - Orfeas-Konstantinos Sotiriou, National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government

Trafficking of Underwater Cultural Heritage - Peter Campbell, Assistant Director: British School at Rome

Internet and Dark Web in Antiquities Smuggling Phenomenon - Vassiliki Simi, MSc of Laws, International Law and Legal Studies, National School for Public Administration and Local Government student

Borderline” Exhibitions: Ephemeral Museum Displays as Tools for Raising Awareness Against Trafficking Of Antiquities - Katerina Koukouvaou, Archaeologist, Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities

Education and Training Responding to Operational Needs and Practices in Law Enforcement Units : Cultural Heritage Protection - Angeliki Aloupi, Director of the Committee of Prevention and Management of Social Exclusion - Hellenic Community for Behavior Analysis

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - BIOMETRICS - NEXT STEPS

Biometrics are here to stay and are an increasingly valuable tool in making borders secure. But what are the next steps and developments and implementation in biometric technology and how biometrics is lawfully used to help on the border, considering aspects such as GDPR and travel document security.

Chair: Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Glen Wimbury, Technology & Innovation Lead, Future Borders, Border Force UK*

Gunter Schumacher, Researcher, European Commission, ec - Joint Research Centre (JRC)*

2:00pm - 4:00pm PLENARY SESSION - THE FUTURE TRENDS AND APPROACH TO ALTERNATIVES FOR SECURING BORDERS

Brexit, the US/Mexico Wall, Greek/Turkish borders are forcing the debate about future border developments. But could any or all of them really supply the blue print for the future of borders for land, sea and air? Has Integrated Border Management (IBM) proven successful? What's the latest thought leadership in enhancing border protection and management to counter the ever changing challenges?

Senior Representative, Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), Greece

The Role of Gender Equality in BSM

Inesa Nicolaescu, Associate Border Security Officer, OSCE

Health and Humanitarian border management programs

Judith Knöpfli, Project Manager, IOM / Immigration and Border management unit, Niger

Use of Technology for Security and Development of South Asian Borders

Manoj Kumar, Second in Command, Indian Border Security Force

Strengthening Trust and Cooperation at the Eastern Border of the EU. Current and Future trends in the EU Border Management

Rimutis Klevečka, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Border Management, Lithuania

Achieving Effective Border Security in Nigeria: A Sustainable Social, Economic and Infrastructural Development Approach

Captain Junaid Abdullahi, Executive Secretary, Border Communities Development Agency, Nigeria

Non-governmental participation in integrated border management

Iryna Sushko, Executive Director, Europe Without Barriers

Comprehensive Border Governance - Tony Stefan Mihaitoia, Senior Border Management and Security Adviser, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

4:00PM

CONGRESS ROUND UP AND CLOSE



SITE VISITS TO PORT OF PIRAEUS / ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

TUESDAY 5TH OCTOBER – 8.30AM-12NOON

PORT OF PIRAEUS



The Port of Piraeus is the chief sea port of Piraeus, Greece, situated upon the Saronic Gulf on the western coasts of the Aegean Sea, the largest port in Greece and one of the largest in Europe. With about 18.6 million passengers Piraeus was the busiest passenger port in Europe in 2014. Since its privatization in 2009 the port's container handling has grown rapidly. According to Lloyd's list for top 100 container ports in 2015 Piraeus ranked 8th in Europe. Piraeus handled 4.9 million twenty-foot equivalent unit containers (TEU's) in 2018, an increase of 19,4% compared with 2017 climbing to the number two position of all Mediterranean ports.

ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Athens International Airport is the largest international airport in Greece, serving the city of Athens and region of Attica. It began operation on March 2001 and is the main base of Aegean Airlines, as well as other smaller Greek airlines. Athens International is currently the 27th-busiest airport in Europe. The airport currently has two terminals, the main terminal and the satellite terminal accessible by an underground link from the main terminal. It is designed to be extended in a modular approach over the ensuing years in order to accommodate increases in air travel. These extensions are planned in a six-phase framework. The first (and current) phase allows the airport to accommodate 26 million passengers per year. In 2004, it was declared European airport of the year.

Spaces are limited so ensure you book your place on the site tour early at www.world-border-congress.com



Watch the latest webinar recordings at www.border-security-report.com/webinar-library

See more Videos on the Border Security Report YouTube Channel >>



A View to a Border: 2. Operational Challenges to Counter Terrorism in the context of Cross-border Cooperation

View directly at www.border-security-report.com/view-to-border-2

A View to a Border: 1. Cross-border cooperation & Information sharing

View directly at www.border-security-report.com/view-to-border-1



API/PNR (Part 3) – Future Systems to Fight Global Terrorism and Cross Border Crime

View directly at www.border-security-report.com/api-pnr-webinar-part3

Air Travel in the Post COVID World

View directly at www.border-security-report.com/air-travel-post-covid



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IDEMIA to participate in the UK government’s digital identity pilot

Pursuant to UK government standards, DCS will provide a powerful new way to help verify UK passport holders’ identity, underpinned by security and user experience.



It will help prevent fraud, speed up checks and allow people to prove their identity for both face-to-face and online transactions.

The DCS was previously only available for use in government transactions, however can now be used by pilot-participating private sector firms to check passport information provided by UK citizens against government held data.

With citizen consent, service providers will use IDEMIA’s IDway solution to instantly check people’s passport details match the UK government’s passport office database. The DCS will then respond yes or no to confirm whether or not the

passport details are valid. People’s private data are protected at all times.

The UK has a thriving digital economy and we are committed to making it easier for people to prove their identity online without compromising personal information, and for businesses to conduct checks in a safe and secure way. This pilot is a significant step forward in our work and will help speed up access to financial services and make sure more people can benefit from the huge potential of technology. Matt Warman, UK government Digital Infrastructure Secretary

US DHS S&T and LANL R&D collaboration leads to new chemical detection technology called SEDONA

SEDONA is the result of a joint research and development effort between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and partners at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)..



When deployed at security checkpoints, border crossings, and ports of entry across the country, SEDONA will enhance DHS’s abilities to detect and intercept dangerous chemicals and nerve agents. We’d call this a win-win.

“DHS staff members in the field need to be able to safely and efficiently scan for and detect chemicals, nerve agents, and related substances that can pose a threat to our citizens,” said S&T program manager Dr. Don Bansleben. “To ensure that they always have cutting-edge tools at their disposal, we continuously work with our various

partners and subject matter experts to review new and improved technologies that can help these frontline operators address and mitigate emerging threats.”

A LANL scientist uses SEDONA to scan the contents of a bottle for the presence of dangerous chemical weapons. SEDONA is a user-friendly, portable, prototype chemical agent detection system that uses an ultra-low-field nuclear magnetic resonance technique to quickly and accurately detect chemical threats in smaller-sized bottles and containers—without needing to open them.

Cognitec Extends Face Recognition Product Suite for Border Crossing Applications

In response to the growing demand for biometrics enrollment during border crossing processes, Cognitec has extended its Entry product line to offer an all-inclusive device for capturing standards-compliant biometric photos.



Instant camera positioning, active lighting, and interactive user guidance lead to optimal, user-friendly capture conditions.

The system finds the face of the person, adjusts the position of the camera to body height, and takes best-quality pictures.

Animated user guidance instructs the user to take the correct position in front of the camera. The technology supports automatic or operator-triggered image acquisition, and can be easily integrated into any border control IT system. Light-weight, slim design and flexible mounting methods allow for varied installation options on kiosks, walls or

in free-standing pillars. Managing Director Alfredo Herrera noted, "In the past 20 years, Cognitec has contributed many pioneering products to automate airport and border control processes. This new product complements our Entry product for eGates, with both devices serving entry/exit systems at borders around the world."

The product includes Cognitec's renowned software for ISO compliance checks. First released in 2006, the technology has been used by government agencies and commercial customers worldwide to take biometric photos.

Frictionless Borders to be Possible with New Tech

Elandbridge is announcing its TruckPass© technology, specifically designed to enable frictionless, digital borders and to address the challenges being faced by the haulage industry post-Brexit, including those presented by the border crossings between the UK mainland, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland.



TruckPass is an effortless, secure solution to getting freight across borders without delays, which can typically be anywhere from 15 minutes to several days.

Elandbridge is a consortium comprising border security professionals, haulage industry experts and leading IT, communications and systems development specialists. Using intelligent electronic seals, blockchain ledger, GPS tracking, secure facial recognition, IoT technology, enhanced communication systems and specifically-designed applications, Elandbridge is providing a proven and deliverable solution for frictionless borders. The innovative solution

is thought to be the only technology which fully meets government, customs, and security needs of the regulators and all the compliance requirements of the haulage industry.

Charles Le Gallais CBE, CEO and Founder of Elandbridge, said: "The logistics problems in Northern Ireland are not going to go away unless something changes, and I believe TruckPass is that change. We have been developing the solution for some time now and have benefited greatly from collaboration with and input from major haulage businesses, both in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and across Europe."

Two vessels will be purchased by the Romanian Border Police

Signing of the commercial contract in order to build and purchase of two maritime patrol vessels that will enter the endowment of the the Romanian Border Police has taken place.

The contract was concluded between the General Inspectorate of Border Police, through the General Inspector of Border Police Quaestor Liviu Bute and Damen Shipyards Gorinchem B.V. Netherlands, represented by Stephen Stout, sales manager for Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, for the acquisition of two means of naval mobility. The value of the contract is 129,944,250 lei without VAT (26 million euros), a project carried out from non-reimbursable European funds, through the Internal Security Fund the ships will get in RBP endowment by 30.11.2022.

These vessels are part of a larger project involving the supplementation of the RBP naval fleet, in which,

in addition to the two maritime patrol vessels (CPV – Coastal Patrol Vessel) they will acquire five intervention boats (CPB – Coastal Patrol Boat).

The acquisition of maritime patrol vessels and intervention boats confers to the Romanian Border Police an increase of the operative intervention capacities, these being destined for the surveillance of the external maritime border of the European Union and the observance of the Romanian state jurisdiction in the area of competence, ensuring the waters from the exclusively economic area, for patrolling missions, maritime safety, search and rescue operations and transportation of survivors.

Bangladesh successfully pushes the roll-out of ePassport infrastructure

Bangladesh has achieved several key milestones in its nationwide transition to next-generation electronic passports in 2020.

Despite the adverse circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic, the People’s Republic was able to decisively advance the modernization project together with its German technology partner Veridos. The company has also supported the country to make all necessary preparations to further deepen the local supply chain for ePassports in 2021. In 2020, Veridos equipped all 70 regional passport offices in Bangladesh with the necessary IT resources for providing modern ePassports. Workstations with biometric enrollment equipment enable staff at all passport offices to collect the necessary data from citizens, including

fingerprints, iris scans and color photos. Since January 2020, citizens can schedule online appointments for enrollment, which allows them to avoid long wait times. Already more than half a million citizens have applied for ePassports via the online portal. This eGovernment service supports Prime Minister Hasina Wajed’s declared goal of a “Digital Bangladesh”. The production and personalization center for the new ePassports in the capital, Dhaka, was fully completed in 2020. It contains a state-of-the-art data center and is equipped with modern personalization machines. Its capacity amounts to 25,000 ePassports per day.

ADVERTISING SALES

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World Border Security Congress
8th-10th JUNE 2021
ATHENS, GREECE
www.world-border-congress.com

Building Trust and Co-operation through Discussion and Dialogue

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Greece lies at the crossroads of East and West, Europe and the Middle East. It lies directly opposite Libya so along with Italy is the primary destination for migrants coming from that conflict zone and is a short boat trip from Turkey, the other principal migrant route for Syrians fleeing there conflict there.

Greece has over sixteen thousand kilometres of coastline and six thousand islands, only two hundred and twenty-seven of which are inhabited. The islands alone have 7,500 km of coastline and are spread mainly through the Aegean and the Ionian Seas, making maritime security incredibly challenging.

The sheer scale of the migrant crisis in late 2015 early 2016 had a devastating impact on Greek finances and its principle industry, tourism. All this in the aftermath of the financial crisis in 2009. Despite this, both Greece and Italy, largely left to handle the crisis on their own, managed the crisis with commendable determination and humanity.

With their experience of being in the frontline of the migration crisis, Greece is the perfect place re-convene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

The World Border Security Congress Committee invite you to join the international border security and management community and Apply for your Delegate Pass at www.world-border-congress.com.

We look forward to welcoming you to Athens, Greece on March 31st-2nd April 2020 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.

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for the international border management and security industry

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HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Migration & Asylum

Confirmed speakers include:

- Jim Nye, Assistant Chief Constable – Innovation, Contact & Demand & NPCC Maritime Lead, Devon & Cornwall Police
- Dr Olomu Babatunde Olukayode, Deputy Comptroller of Customs, Nigeria Customs
- Sanusi Tasiu Saulawa, Deputy Superintendent of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service
- Heiko Werner, Head of Security Group, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany
- Gerald Tatzgern, Head of Joint Operational Office, Public Security Austria
- Peter Nilsson, Head of AIRPOL
- Wayne Salzgeber, Director, INTERPOL Washington
- Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, OSCE
- James Garcia, Assistant Director, Cargo & Biometrics – Global Targeting Advisory Division National Targeting Center – U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Valdecy Urquiza, Assistant Director – Vulnerable Communities – INTERPOL General Secretariat
- Hans Peter Wagner, National Expert, Senior Chief Inspector, Federal Police
- Mile Milenkoski, Senior adviser, Department for borders, passports and overflights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of North Macedonia
- Manoj Kumar, Second in Command, Indian Border Security Force
- Rear Admiral Mohammed Ashrafal Haque, Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard Force

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