

# ETMUN

Unraveling the Domino Effect



**Committee:** INTERPOL

**Topic:** Transnational Organized Crime Syndicates in the Middle East

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### Letter from the President:

Dear delegates,

My name is Saleh Shaban, your president at the INTERPOL committee for this year's version of ETMUN, and it's an absolute honor to have you all here. The unique circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic were responsible for bringing me into the world of MUN's, and 27 experiences in, ranging from AMMUN to Harvard, I've experienced a remarkable journey of growth and discovery, and I'm eager to share some of those insights with you!

Throughout my MUN journey, I have found the most success while bending the rules, and I encourage the spirit of exploration within all of you. Looking for loopholes and gaps is one of the most challenging, yet most fun tasks a delegate may face, and I look forward to a lot of that during our 3 days together.

I want the you, delegates of the INTERPOL, to be the bravest, and most ambitious delegates this conference has. Let the INTERPOL be a first for many things, whether you're a first-time delegate, or a seasoned vet, I request nothing but the best from all of you, dig deep, lead the charge, do the silent research, get out of your comfort zone, and truly, give it your all.

Finally, let us not forget that MUN's are a way to connect with each other, see our friends, have fun, build new connections, and let go of a bit of that high school student stress, so let us not let even the most heated of debate sessions set us apart, and let us enjoy our time regardless of any outcomes. I truly can't wait to see what the delegates of the INTERPOL have to offer, and the chairing panel VOWS to make this the best experience you've ever had.

With the kindest regards and boundless excitement for the days ahead,

Saleh Shaban,

President of the Interpol, ETMUN'23,

## **Introduction:**

The Middle East stands out as a focal point for diverse forms of organized crime, encompassing human trafficking, smuggling, money laundering, and cybercrime. These syndicates often operate across borders, rendering their containment a challenging endeavor.

## **Definition of Key Terms:**

### **Transnational:**

extending or operating across national boundaries.

### **Syndicates:**

a group of individuals or organizations combined to promote a common interest.

## **General Overview:**

### **➔ Causes of the issue:**

- 1) **Geographical Features:** The Middle East's varied terrain, including deserts, mountainous regions, and vast coastlines, provides ideal conditions for clandestine activities such as smuggling, making it challenging for law enforcement to monitor and control.
- 2) **Political Instability:** Ongoing political turmoil and power struggles in certain Middle Eastern countries have created vulnerabilities, enabling the operation and expansion of transnational criminal networks. The ambiguity regarding who holds actual power and alliances further complicates law enforcement efforts.
- 3) **Socioeconomic Disparities:** High levels of poverty, limited economic opportunities, and disparities in wealth contribute to the involvement of individuals in illicit activities, further complicating law enforcement efforts.

### **➔ Factors and Facilitators:**

- 1) **Financing:** Criminal activities provide significant funding for various organizations and networks, facilitating their operations and expansion.
- 2) **Power Dynamics:** Control over territories and criminal enterprises leads to conflicts and power struggles, adding to regional instability.

- 3) Regional Instability: The presence of transnational organized crime syndicates exacerbates existing regional instability, threatening state stability and regional security.
- 4) Lack of Resources: Limited resources and capabilities within law enforcement agencies hinder their ability to effectively combat these syndicates.
- 5) Demand: The global demand for illicit goods and services continues to drive the expansion of criminal enterprises in the Middle East.

### **Major Parties Involved:**

- ✚ Crime Syndicates: Prominent syndicates, often with international reach, control extensive territories and trafficking routes within the region.
- ✚ Extremists Groups: Certain extremist and terrorist organizations engage in criminal activities for financial gain, further complicating security concerns in the region.
- ✚ Corrupt Officials: Corruption within law enforcement and governmental bodies provides a haven for criminal operations, weakening the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies.
- ✚ Local Communities: Vulnerable communities, due to economic hardships, may be drawn into the network of illicit activities, serving as recruits or facilitators.

### **Timeline of Events:**

- ❖ Historical roots: The history of organized crime in the Middle East spans decades, with illegal activities adapting and evolving with changing times and technologies.
- ❖ Advancements: Technological advancements and shifts in global trade have facilitated the evolution of criminal networks, enabling more sophisticated operations.
- ❖ Global Impact: The consequences of transnational organized crime syndicates in the Middle East extend beyond the region, impacting international security, trade, and stability.

### **Guiding Questions:**

- How can INTERPOL facilitate greater collaboration among Middle Eastern countries to combat transnational organized crime syndicates effectively?
- What strategies can be implemented to address the socioeconomic factors that contribute to the expansion of criminal networks in the Middle East?
- How can the committee work to mitigate the impact of crime-related violence and its spillover into neighboring regions?
- In what ways can INTERPOL support local law enforcement agencies and governments in the fight against transnational crime syndicates?
- How can member countries and INTERPOL collaborate to dismantle the financial networks supporting these syndicates in the Middle East?
- What strategies can be implemented to disrupt the production and trafficking of illicit goods and services within the Middle East?
- How can information sharing and intelligence cooperation be improved between INTERPOL and national law enforcement agencies in the Middle East?
- What are the consequences faced by individuals involved in transnational crime syndicates upon capture or apprehension?

### **Final Remarks:**

Delegates and the INTERPOL are working hand in hand to help put a stop, or at least, hinder drug production and distribution. Latin America's corrupt politicians, and the complex power dynamic that some of its countries have, creates the perfect safety net for criminals, and the ability for their organizations to prosper. The INTERPOL realizes that an issue of this magnitude cannot be solved overnight, and its intricate aspects only make it tougher to crack down on the root of the issues, and put an end to them, but steps in the right direction are a success, hindering the production of drugs is a success, hindering their distribution is a success, cracking down on corrupt politicians and other steps in the correct direction are simply only the beginning. Resolutions during the 3 days should aim to achieve such goals, and the well-rounded, feasible resolutions shall pass.