

# **Resolving the Increase of Crime and Violence Tied to the Growing Number of Drug Trafficking Organizations Around the World**

## **Report of the Chair**

### **I. Statement of the Problem:**

1. According to the United Nations Office Of Drugs and Crime, drug trafficking is defined as, "a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws." <sup>[1]</sup>
2. Drug trafficking organizations frequently fight with each other, using weapons and hired mercenaries to protect shipments and key individuals. This leads to weaponized violence and very commonly, the deaths of innocent civilians. These organizations tend to thrive in less developed countries and areas, where working in the drug trade may be the best economic choice. <sup>[2]</sup>
3. The draw of monetary gain associated with trafficking heavily attracts new members and greatly influences the country's youth, recruiting them to the criminal lifestyle. In many places, the syndicate has more money than the government itself. This can lead to corruption of police or members of office. <sup>[3]</sup>
4. Drug trafficking organizations create dangerous communities with increased violence, imbalances in power, and corrupted government officials. These cartels have immense power within the community, and can easily take over the entire government of a small country.
5. Possibly the most dangerous part about these organizations is their communication with other criminal syndicates. It has been shown that Sicilian Mafia members collaborate with drug cartel leaders in Columbia, and look to expand markets overseas. <sup>[4]</sup> This could potentially be the source of major international problems in the future.
6. As stated by Bolivian President Evo Morales, "Illegal drugs constitute the third most profitable industry in the world after food and oil, according to a United Nations report, with an annual estimated value of \$450 billion completely under the control of criminals." <sup>[5]</sup> It is apparent that this committee need to find a solution that will lower the crime rates and undermine the power of black market drug monopolies.

### **II. History of the Issue:**

7. Mexico is notorious for having some of the most violent and aggressive drug organizations in the world. These organizations started in the 1980's and have had a huge impact on the lives of Mexican citizens. Many have had to leave their homes in search of a safer place to live.
8. The Sinaloa cartel has an estimated net worth of almost 1 billion dollars, and has caused as many as 12,000 casualties. <sup>[6]</sup> The Tijuana Cartel, also in Mexico, is known as

one of the most dangerous cartels in the world, and is the cause for the most amount of casualties. <sup>[3]</sup> Because of this, an increasing amount of people are fleeing heavily trafficked areas in order to find more suitable places to live.

8. Drug cartels and organizations are now common in many other places, including Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. Mafias are similar to cartels, and are present in various places in Europe, such as Sicily, Albania, and Russia. <sup>[4]</sup> In the Middle East, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand are known as the Golden Triangle, and are some of the largest opium producers in the world. <sup>[7]</sup> Afghanistan is part of what is called the Golden Crescent, and farmers there produced 95 percent of world's illicit drugs in 2007. <sup>[8]</sup> As time goes on, the power of these organizations grow, and the harder they are to stop.

### **III. Potential Solutions:**

7. The power of drug cartels has been growing, and their aftereffects can devastate communities. It is important to remember that this committee can only make suggestions, and that national sovereignty must come into play when making any decisions. Keep in mind:

- The focus of this committee should be the disarmament of these organizations; dealing with the consumption and regulation of the drugs themselves is secondary.
- What policies does your country have on weapons?
- What policies does your country have on illicit drug?
- Have any actions been taken against this issue?

### **IV Position and Research Tips:**

Position papers should answer the following:

- Does drug trafficking occur in your country or area?
- If so, are these drugs tied to cartels or other organizations?
  - Are these organizations violent?
  - Do they affect the lives of citizens?
  - Do they affiliate with or participate in arms trade?
- If relatively peaceful, how can governments prevent them from becoming violent?
- If no organizations are present, how can the government prevent them from forming or spreading?

### **Useful Links**

- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- <http://www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/DisarmamentCommission/UNDiscom.shtml>

- [http://www.un.org/disarmament/content/news/disarmament\\_commission\\_2013/](http://www.un.org/disarmament/content/news/disarmament_commission_2013/)
- <http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ArmsTrade/>
- <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/index.html>

## V References:

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- [5] Newman, A. (2013, March 15). As UN Orders Expanded Global Drug War, Critics Fight Back. The New American | Home. Retrieved May 25, 2013, from <http://www.thenewamerican.com/world-news/europe/item/14792-as-un-orders-expanded-global-drug-war-critics-fight-back>
- [6] The Five Most Famous Drug Cartels. (n.d.). Drug Abuse Treatment – Alcohol and Substance Abuse Programs. Retrieved May 25, 2013, from <http://drugabuse.com/the-five-most-famous-drug-cartels/>
- [7] Smith, P. (1929, December 11). The Top Ten International Drug Policy Stories of 2011 [FEATURE] | StoptheDrugWar.org. StoptheDrugWar.org | raising awareness of the consequences of prohibition. Retrieved May 25, 2013, from [http://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle/2011/dec/29/top\\_ten\\_international\\_drug\\_polic](http://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle/2011/dec/29/top_ten_international_drug_polic)
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## VI Note to Delegates:

We as chairs are very excited for MUNSA XVIII this year, and we hope that this committee will be as fun for you as it will be for us. We felt that drug distribution and its relationship to the arms trade is a pressing and interesting topic, and that delegating about them would shine a new light

on the Disarmament committee. This problem is constantly evolving, so be sure to keep up with recent news so that you may be prepared for this year's conference. It is also important to remember that our committee focuses primarily on the violence, and not the legality of drugs. We hope to see all of you prepared and ready, and look forward to meeting you all soon!

Sincerely,  
Luke Martinez and the Disarmament Chairs

## **Addressing the Issue of Chemical Warfare and its Impacts**

### **I. Statement of the Problem:**

1. Chemical warfare is defined by the Chemical Weapons Convention as “toxic chemicals and its precursors used for the purpose of harming or killing.”<sup>[8]</sup> These agents attack the respiratory system, cause a lack of oxygen, and can affect the nerves and blood.<sup>[5]</sup>
2. Chemical weapons are classified as being "unconventional" as they do not rely on an explosive force to injure or kill. Military leaders around the world have stated publicly that chemical weapons pose one of the biggest threats to soldiers in modern combat.<sup>[6]</sup>
3. The United Nations has discovered about 70 different types of chemical warfare agents.<sup>[6]</sup> Chemical warfare has harmful environmental effects that are disastrous for human quality of life, causing refugees and internally displaced peoples to flee affected areas. It is not condoned by many countries, and its use is frowned upon by the UN.

### **II. History of the Issue:**

4. The use of chemicals in warfare dates back to ancient times. Arsenic smoke was used by the Spartans in the Peloponnesian War and the Byzantine Greeks used “Greek Fire” at the siege of Constantinople.<sup>[1]</sup>
5. The first use of modern chemical warfare took place in World War 1, when German forces released tons of chlorine gas, killing thousands of troops.<sup>[1]</sup>
6. By 1917, many other means of chemical warfare were created, including mustard gas. By the end of World War I, about 125,000 tons of toxic chemicals had been used, which caused over 1.3 million casualties.<sup>[1]</sup>
7. The production of these chemicals has persisted over the twentieth century. In 1980, a conference was held in Geneva to begin working on a Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) to try to ban the development, production, stockpiling, and transfer of chemical weapons.<sup>[2]</sup> The nations that ratified to the CWC would have 10 years to destroy all of their toxic chemical pollutants.<sup>[4]</sup> The Chemical Weapons Convention has been a successful measure, with a rapid growth in the number of member nations.<sup>[2]</sup>
8. Recently, controversy has erupted over the Syrian government’s alleged use of chemical warfare in its civil war. Many American interventionists are demanding that the United States government take action against the Syrian government, but no military intervention has taken place for the time being.<sup>[7]</sup>

### **III. Potential Solutions:**

9. Chemical agents have been used for centuries. They are not only dangerous to humans and all other living organisms, but also to the environment. It is essential that solutions are made to resolve this global issue. Please remember that this committee can only make suggestions, not decisions. Keep in mind:

- Policies that your country has on chemical warfare?
- Pros and Cons of the use of chemical agents.

- Any actions that have taken against or for this issue.

#### IV. Position and Research Tips:

- Please remember to stay professional and reasonable throughout the whole debate and conference. Delegates must remain authentic to their country's position on the issue. Consider the following when conducting research:
  - Is your nation in support of or against the use of chemical warfare?
  - Did your nation ratify to the Chemical Weapons Convention?
  - How has your country participated in the past to address the problem at hand?
  - What is your nation's prior history with chemical warfare?
  - Consider all the different aspects that affect this issue, and all of the possible side effects.
  - Please use credible sources.

#### V. Useful Web Sources:

- <<http://www.voanews.com/content/syria-chemicals-/1624455.html>>
- <<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2013/sgsm14929.doc.htm>>
- <<http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Chemical/>>

#### VI. References:

- [1] History of Chemical Warfare. (2009, September 29). *Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development Canada*. Retrieved August 1, 2013, from [www.international.gc.ca/arms-armes/non\\_nuclear-non\\_nucleaire/history-historique.aspx?lang=eng](http://www.international.gc.ca/arms-armes/non_nuclear-non_nucleaire/history-historique.aspx?lang=eng)
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**VI. Note to Delegates:**

Delegates,

My co-chairs and I are very excited for MUNSA XVIII. We know that you all have been working extremely hard to prepare for this conference. We greatly appreciate all of your hard work and effort, and we hope it all pays off at the conference. We wish you all good luck and hope that you are just as excited as we are!

Sincerely,

Ariana Sonsino and the Disarmament Chairs