



— UNODC —

"CHANGE WILL NOT COME IF WE WAIT FOR SOME OTHER PERSON OR SOME OTHER TIME."



SKYMUN

NEW FOR THE SKY



TABLE OF CONTENT

Letter from Secretary General	3
Letter from Under Secretary General.....	4
Letter from Academic Assistant.....	5
1) Introduction to the Committee.....	6
2)Historical Context.....	8
a.Historical Examples of Illicit Trafficking	
b.Evolution of Border Patrol Strategies and Technologies	
3)Forms of Illicit Trafficking.....	10
a.Drug Trafficking	
b.Human Trafficking	
c.Arms Trafficking	
d.Wildlife Trafficking	
4)Narco Tunnels on the Mexico-US Border: A Persistent Challenge in Illicit Trafficking.....	16
5) Illicit Trafficking Challenges in Turkey's Eastern Borders.....	20
6)Positive Impacts of Border Patrol Enforcement.....	23
a.Disruption of Supply Chains and Trafficking Routes	
b.Deterrence Effect on Traffickers	
c.Protection of Vulnerable Populations	
7)Negative Impacts of Border Patrol Enforcement.....	24
a.Displacement of Trafficking Routes and "Balloon Effect"	
b.Increased Violence and Conflict in Border Regions	
c.Potential for Human Right Abuses	
8)International Cooperation and Legal Frameworks.....	25
a.Overview of Relevant International Conventions and Agreements (e.g., UNTOC)	
Questions to Ponder.....	27
Bibliography.....	28

Letter from Secretary General

Dear participants,

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you all to the Sky Model United Nations conference on the 18th, 19th and 20th of August. It is my honor to have the opportunity to serve as the Secretary-General of a conference which aims for the absolute best.

First of all, I think it is my responsibility to state that both academic and organization teams worked real hard to provide you the best Model United Nations experience possible, as if they live by our motto "aim for the sky".

The world we live in today is riddled with conflicts, wars and clashes of interests. As hard as it might be to hear, it has yet to become a lost cause. As educated and equipped youths, we aim to amend such problems and, together, build up a brighter future by uniting and supporting each other. Thus, through the format of Model United Nations, our goal is to further encourage the youth to take action to achieve such goals.

I would like to invite you - our most distinguished applicants - to join us on this thrilling journey.

Best regards.

Bedirhan YILDIRIM

Secretary-General of SkyMUN'23 Conference

Letter from Under Secretary General

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee,

Before we begin, I would like to salute you all. I am Emre Özaydın, currently a sophomore at Yaşar University Computer Programming School. During SKYMUN'23 I will be serving as the

Under-Secretary-General of **United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime-UNODC**. Me And our committee's Academic Assistant will guide you upon the committee before and after the conference starts. Thence please do not hesitate to contact our academic team (responsible for the committee) if you have any clues or questions about the conference's academic mechanism.

mail: emreozaydn60@gmail.com

phone: +90 505 019 93 48

Best Regards,
Emre Özaydın
Under Secretary General Responsible for UNODC

Letter from Academic Assistant

Distinguished participants,

Firstly, I want to welcome you all to the first annual session of SKYMUN'23. I'm Baran Bozanoğlu and it is my utmost pleasure to serve you as the Academic Assistant responsible for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Committee. In this committee, we will discuss upon "The impact of border patrol enforcement on illicit trafficking". For this agenda, delegates are expected to come up with realistic, implementable, and innovative solutions. I strongly advise you to study this guide as effectively as possible to get a comprehensive understanding of the topic. I hope you will have both engaging and enjoyable debates while sharing your ideas with the committee. Also, please do not be limited to this guide as it has been prepared as a starting point for your research. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would like to thank the honorable Secretary General Mr. Bedirhan Yıldırım for giving me this opportunity and for his kindness and patience. I would like to thank Executive Advisor Mr. Ekin Kılınç for his efforts, and all the executive team for their hard work.

I am looking forward to see you all.

Kindest regards,

Baran Bozanoğlu

Academic Assistant Responsible for UNODC

I. Introduction to the Committee

Illicit trafficking, encompassing the illegal trade of drugs, humans, arms, and wildlife, stands as a pervasive global challenge that undermines social stability, human rights, and sustainable development. It refers to the illicit movement of goods and people across international borders, driven by criminal networks that exploit vulnerabilities within societies. The significance of addressing illicit trafficking cannot be understated, as it fuels transnational crime, funds terrorism, fosters corruption, and perpetuates violence.

In the context of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), tackling illicit trafficking aligns seamlessly with the organization's mandate to promote security, justice, and health worldwide. By comprehensively addressing this multifaceted issue, the UNODC endeavors to enhance international cooperation, strengthen legal frameworks, and facilitate capacity-building efforts among member states, ultimately working towards a safer, more just global community.

Importance of Addressing Illicit Trafficking in the Context of UNODC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) plays a pivotal role in countering the far-reaching impacts of illicit trafficking on a global scale. Illicit trafficking not only threatens public safety and security but also undermines the rule of law, social cohesion, and economic development in nations around the world. By effectively addressing illicit trafficking, the UNODC contributes to the realization of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, as well as Goal 3 on Good Health and Well-Being. Through its comprehensive approach encompassing research, capacity-building, and international cooperation, the UNODC assists member states in combating organized crime, curbing corruption, protecting vulnerable populations, and fostering a climate of security that is essential for sustainable progress.

As a primary advocate for strengthening legal frameworks, sharing best practices, and facilitating dialogue among nations, the UNODC empowers member states to collectively address the complex challenges posed by illicit trafficking, ultimately working towards a safer, more equitable, and prosperous world for all.

II. Historical Context

a. Historical Examples of Illicit Trafficking

Throughout history, illicit trafficking has left indelible marks on global affairs, reshaping economies, societies, and international relations. Two notable examples stand out: the Opium Wars and the Prohibition era. The Opium Wars of the mid-19th century serve as a stark reminder of the devastating consequences of drug trafficking. The British East India Company's opium trade with China led to widespread addiction and social upheaval, culminating in conflicts that had far-reaching diplomatic and economic repercussions.

Similarly, the Prohibition era in the United States during the 1920s highlighted the intricate relationship between illicit trade and public policy. The ban on alcohol led to the rise of organized crime syndicates, demonstrating the unintended consequences of attempting to suppress demand through prohibition. These historical episodes underscore the intricate dynamics between illicit trafficking, social norms, and governance, offering valuable insights as we address the contemporary challenges posed by modern forms of illicit trade.

b. Evolution of Border Patrol Strategies and Technologies

The evolution of border patrol strategies and technologies mirrors the dynamic nature of illicit trafficking throughout history. From ancient civilizations using watchtowers to monitor trade routes, to the modern era's sophisticated surveillance systems and biometric identification methods, border patrol has adapted to counter the ever-changing tactics of traffickers. The Industrial Revolution marked a turning point, as advances in transportation necessitated the establishment of formal border control mechanisms.

Subsequently, the growth of transnational criminal networks prompted the development of international collaborations, exemplified by INTERPOL's establishment in 1923. The digital age introduced a new frontier, where cybercrime and e-commerce have reshaped the nature of illicit trade. Today, cutting-edge technologies like drones, satellite imaging, and artificial intelligence are empowering border patrol agencies to detect and deter illicit trafficking more effectively.

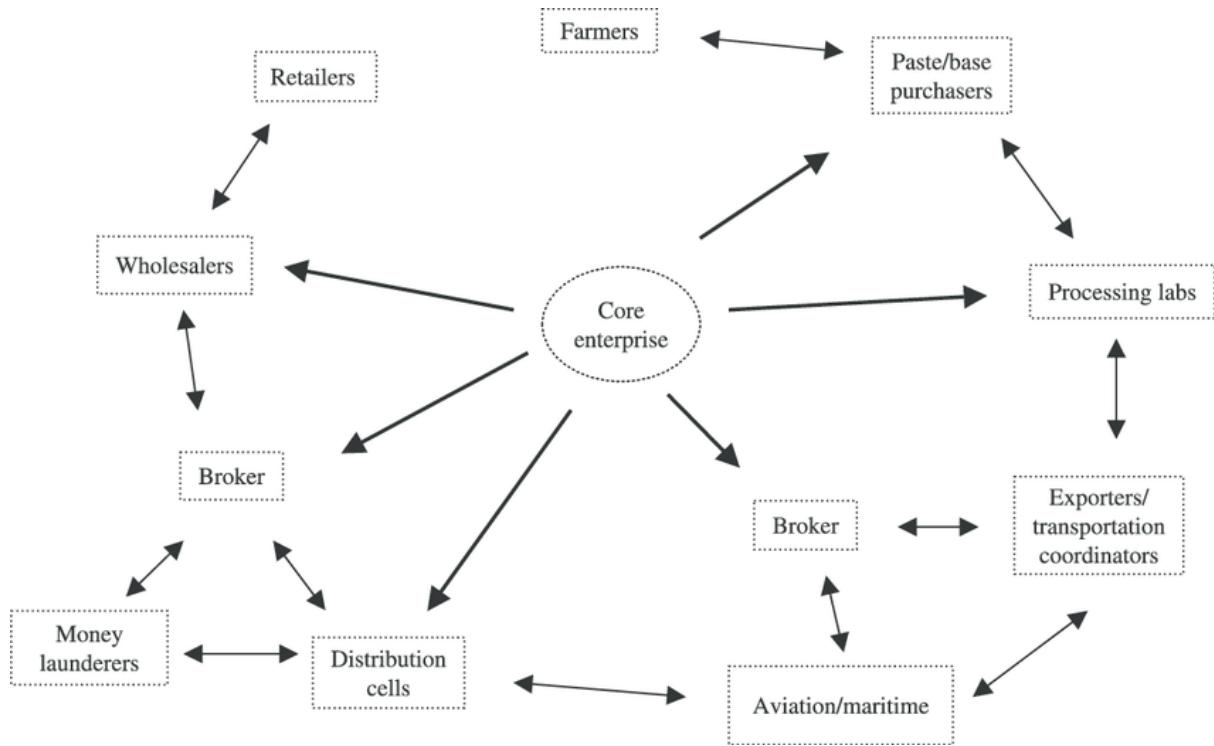
III. Forms of Illicit Trafficking

a. Drug Trafficking

Routes and Major Drug-Producing Regions:

Illicit drug trafficking has established complex networks that span the globe, with key routes often crossing porous borders. Major drug-producing regions, such as the Golden Triangle in Southeast Asia, the Andean region in South America, and the Golden Crescent in South Asia, serve as primary sources for narcotics. These routes exploit geographic vulnerabilities, emphasizing the critical role border control plays in disrupting the flow of illicit drugs.

Impact of Border Control on Drug Trafficking: Effective border control measures act as a frontline defense against drug trafficking. Tightening border security can disrupt supply chains, hinder traffickers' movements, and facilitate the interception of narcotics. By employing advanced surveillance technologies, intelligence sharing, and cooperative agreements, border patrol agencies contribute significantly to curbing the illicit drug trade and its detrimental effects on societies.



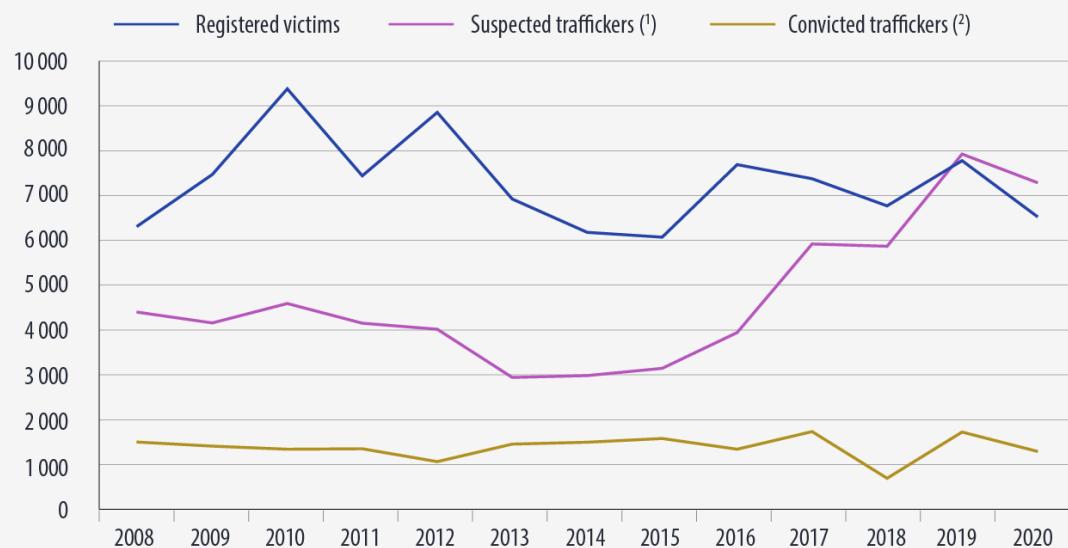
b. Human Trafficking

Causes and Consequences of Human Trafficking:

Human trafficking, driven by factors such as poverty, conflict, and gender inequality, inflicts immeasurable suffering on victims. This modern form of slavery often crosses borders, necessitating robust border control mechanisms to prevent its spread. Human trafficking perpetuates cycles of exploitation, compromising human rights and social stability.

People involved in trafficking in human beings by legal status, 2008-2020

(number of people)



The visual shows totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made.

(¹) Estonia and Sweden: 2019 data not available. Estonia, Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden: 2020 data not available.

(²) Italy: 2019 data not available. Belgium and Italy: 2020 data not available.

eurostat

Role of Border Patrol in Preventing Human Trafficking:

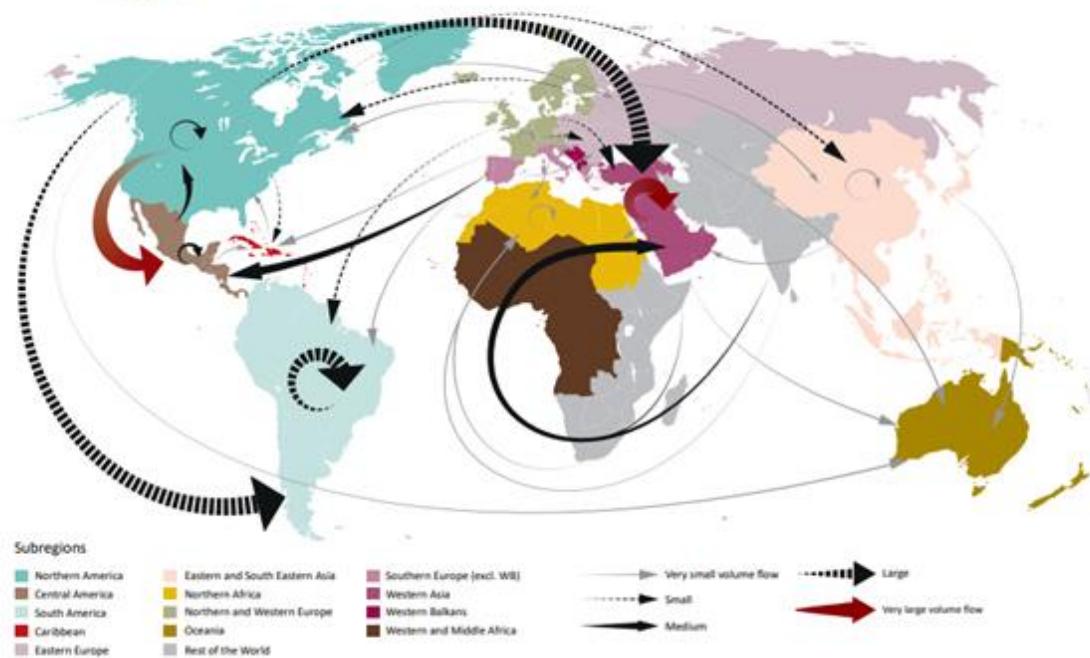
Border patrol serves as a critical line of defense against human trafficking, intercepting victims before they can be subjected to exploitation. Effective border control can disrupt traffickers' operations, dismantle smuggling networks, and safeguard vulnerable populations. By employing vigilant identification processes, cooperation with international agencies, and comprehensive training, border patrol agencies actively contribute to countering human trafficking.

c. Arms Trafficking

Proliferation of Illegal Arms and Its Consequences:

Illicit arms trafficking fuels conflict, crime, and instability across borders. Proliferation of weapons can exacerbate violence, hinder development, and undermine governance. Border control's role in preventing arms trafficking is pivotal for regional and global security.

MAP 1 Main transnational firearms trafficking flows (as defined by routes of seized firearms), 2016-17



Role of Border Patrol in Intercepting Arms Trafficking:

Border patrol's responsibility extends beyond detecting contraband; it includes intercepting the illicit flow of weapons. Through rigorous inspections, cooperation with intelligence agencies, and adherence to international arms control agreements, border control agencies contribute to preventing the spread of illegal arms and mitigating their harmful impact.

d. Wildlife Trafficking

Environmental and Conservation Impact of Wildlife Trafficking:

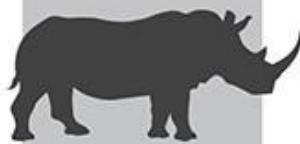
Wildlife trafficking is a dire threat to biodiversity and ecosystems, often involving the smuggling of endangered species and their parts. This trade undermines conservation efforts, disrupts ecosystems, and funds criminal enterprises. The consequences of wildlife trafficking resonate beyond borders, necessitating robust border control measures.

\$23B

The global illegal wildlife trade generates between \$7 billion and \$23 billion in illicit revenue annually.* The trade can involve a range of criminal activities, from trafficking and forgery to bribes and use of shell companies.¹

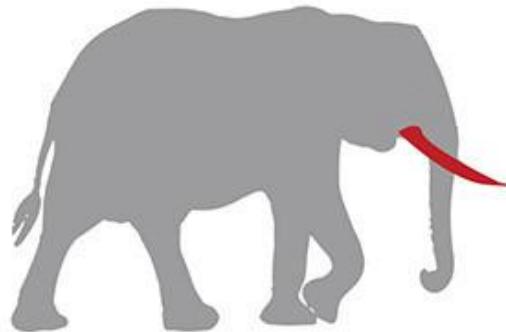
9,246%

In 2007, South Africa lost 13 rhinos. In 2014, it lost 1,215—an increase of more than 9,000%.²



\$60,000

Increasing demand for rhino horn in Asia has fueled black market prices. Rhino horn is said to go for \$60,000 per kg (\$132,000/lb).³



100,000

As many as 100,000 African elephants—33,000 per year—were killed between the years 2010 and 2012. More than 65% of Central Africa's forest elephant population has been wiped out in the last decade.⁴

Border Patrol's Role in Preventing Illegal Trade of Wildlife:

Border patrol's efforts to combat wildlife trafficking extend beyond protecting human interests to safeguarding nature itself. By employing specialized training, utilizing wildlife detection technologies, and collaborating with conservation organizations, border patrol agencies

contribute to the preservation of global biodiversity, ensuring the survival of endangered species and the integrity of ecosystems.

IV. Narco Tunnels on the Mexico-US Border: A Persistent Challenge in Illicit Trafficking

One of the most striking examples of illicit trafficking along the Mexico-US border is the phenomenon of narco tunnels. These clandestine passageways, ingeniously constructed by drug cartels, serve as subterranean conduits for the smuggling of narcotics, primarily cocaine and marijuana, between Mexico and the United States. Emerging from a potent nexus of ingenuity and criminal enterprise, narco tunnels exemplify the ever-evolving tactics employed by traffickers to exploit border vulnerabilities.

These tunnels are meticulously engineered, often originating in innocuous-looking structures on the Mexican side of the border. Stretching hundreds of meters, these hidden corridors are equipped with ventilation systems, lighting, and even rail tracks to facilitate the movement of contraband. Their construction

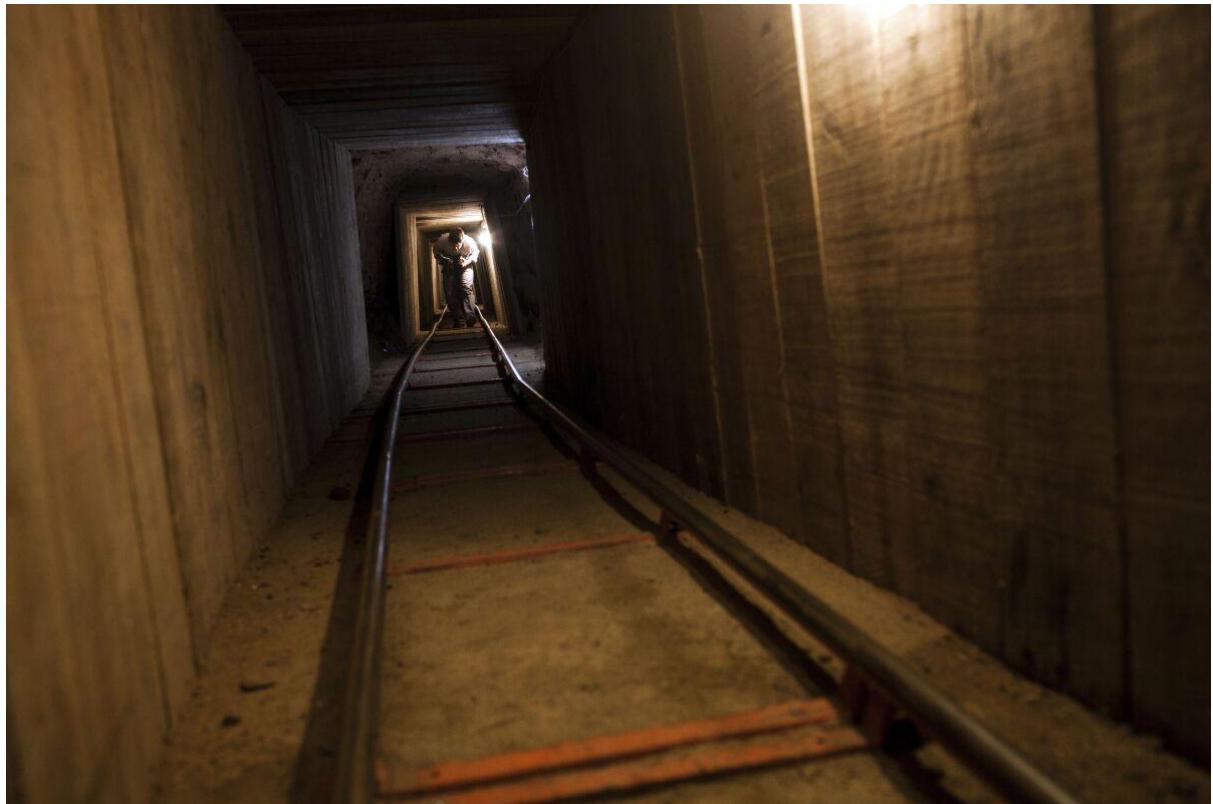
represents a testament to the sophistication of criminal networks operating within the illicit trade industry.

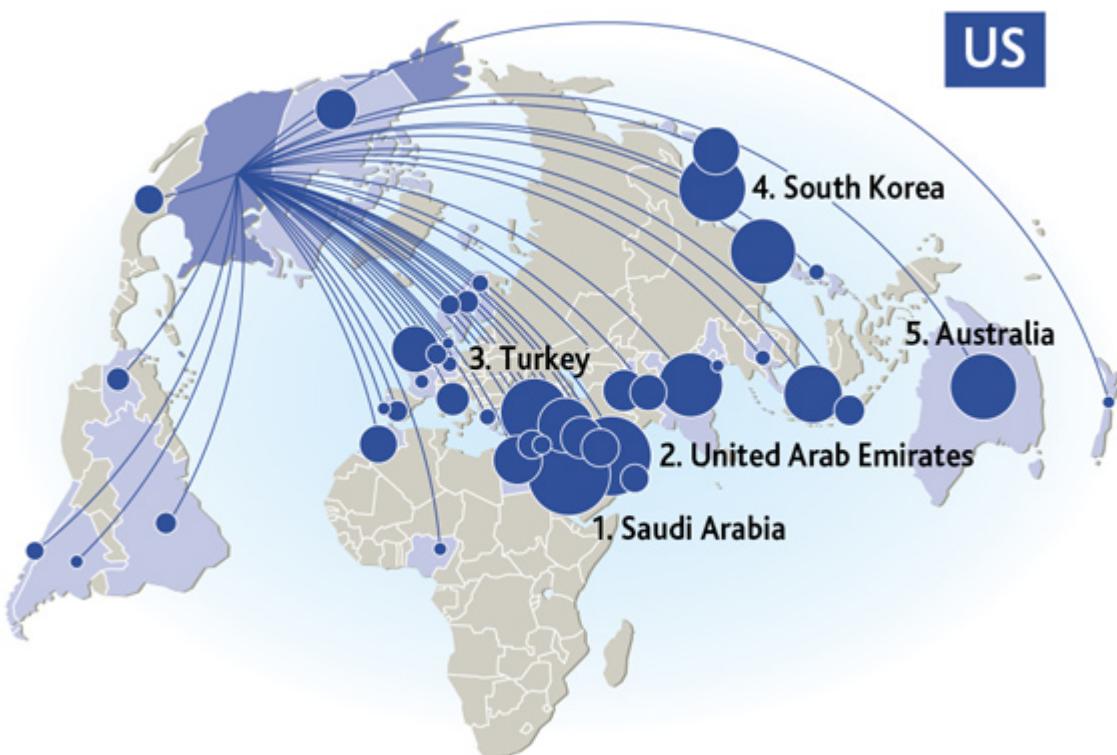
The narco tunnels pose significant challenges to border control agencies on both sides. Their surreptitious entrances are ingeniously concealed within ordinary buildings, making detection a formidable task. The intricate network of tunnels often emerges in unsuspected locations, allowing traffickers to bypass traditional border checkpoints, thus undermining conventional methods of interception.

The impact of narco tunnels reverberates on multiple fronts. The uninterrupted flow of illicit drugs fuels addiction, crime, and violence in both Mexico and the United States. The financial gains from drug trafficking further empower criminal organizations, creating an environment of lawlessness that corrodes societal well-being.

To counter this persistent challenge, cooperation between Mexico and the United States is paramount. Intelligence sharing, technological advancements in tunnel detection, and collaborative enforcement efforts are integral components of addressing the narco tunnel phenomenon. Legal measures aimed at prosecuting individuals involved in tunnel construction and operation underscore the commitment of both nations to combatting this illicit trade.

The enduring presence of narco tunnels along the Mexico-US border serves as a stark reminder of the adaptability of traffickers and the intricate cat-and-mouse game between enforcement agencies and criminal networks. It reinforces the urgency for innovative solutions, international collaboration, and a comprehensive approach to border patrol to effectively counter the evolving methods of illicit trafficking.





V. Illicit Trafficking Challenges in Turkey's Eastern Borders

Turkey's eastern borders have been a focal point for various forms of illicit trafficking, presenting complex challenges for border control and security efforts. This region, characterized by its proximity to conflict zones and porous terrain, has been vulnerable to the trafficking of goods, drugs, weapons, and people. The diverse and rugged landscape provides traffickers with opportunities to exploit vulnerabilities, making detection and prevention a formidable task.

One prevalent issue is the smuggling of goods, including contraband and counterfeit products, which undermines legitimate trade and affects local economies. Additionally, the eastern borders have witnessed the illicit trafficking of narcotics, taking advantage of the region's strategic location as a transit route between drug-producing areas and international markets.

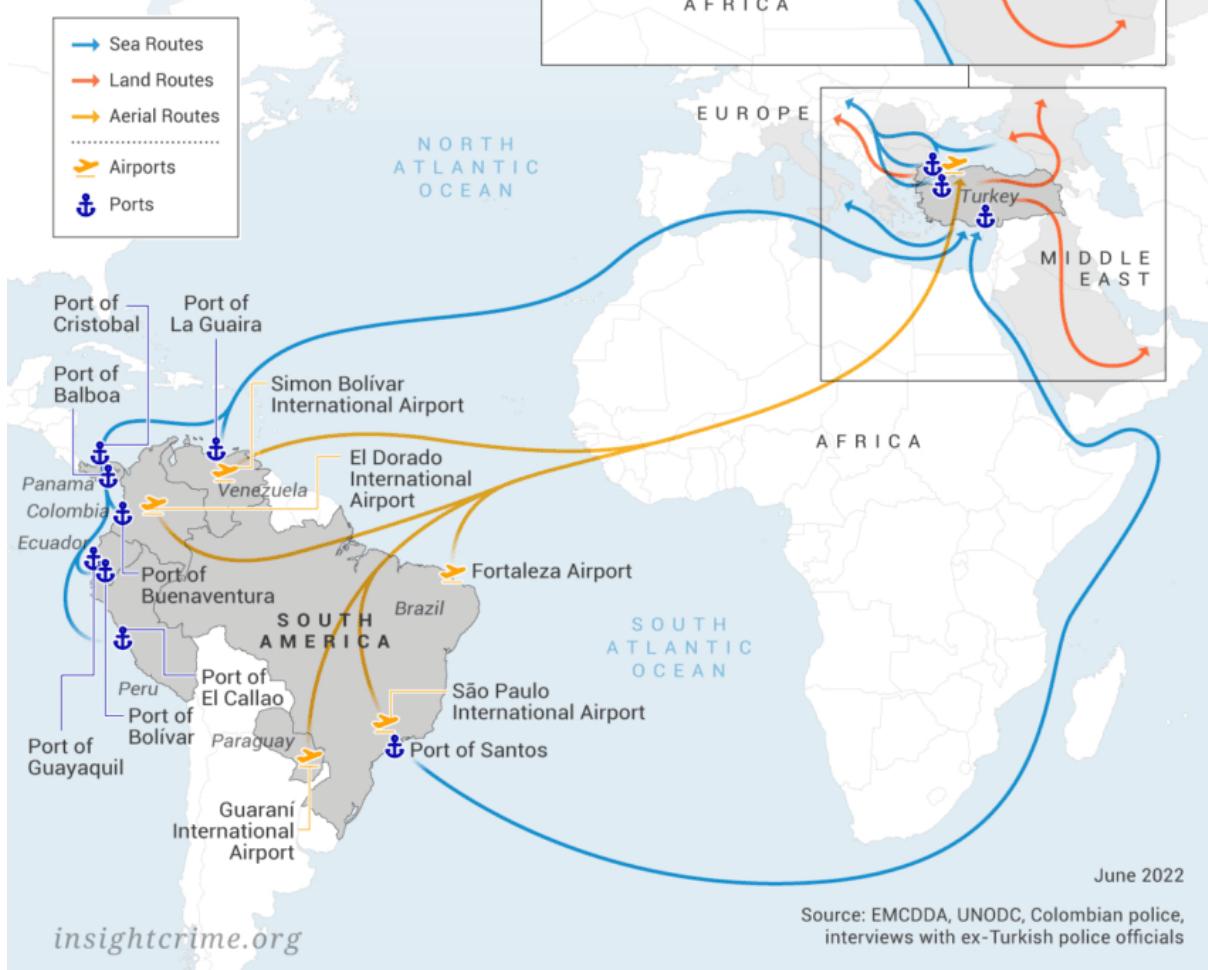
Human trafficking has also been a concern, as migrants and refugees often seek passage through these borders on their journey to safer destinations. Criminal networks exploit the desperation of these vulnerable individuals, subjecting them to exploitation and abuse. Turkey has undertaken significant efforts to address these challenges, investing in advanced technologies, intelligence sharing, and cooperative agreements with neighboring countries.

Collaborative initiatives and strengthened border control measures aim to curb illicit trafficking and foster regional security. As delegates deliberate on the impact of border patrol enforcement, the case of illicit trafficking along Turkey's eastern borders serves as a pertinent example of the multifaceted nature of border control challenges and the importance of international cooperation in combating transnational crime.



Cocaine Trafficking Routes to Turkey

Turkey is now a regional cocaine transit hub. While a small quantity stays in the local market, the vast majority either sails to eastern Europe and the Balkans or travels overland through Iraq to reach developing markets in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.



VI. Positive Impacts of Border Patrol Enforcement

a. Disruption of Supply Chains and Trafficking Routes:

Border patrol enforcement plays a crucial role in disrupting illicit supply chains and trafficking routes. By intercepting contraband and apprehending traffickers, border control agencies hinder the smooth flow of illegal goods, disrupting criminal networks' operations and reducing their profits.

b. Deterrence Effect on Traffickers: An effective border patrol presence acts as a deterrent to traffickers, dissuading them from attempting illicit activities. The knowledge that heightened surveillance and enforcement measures are in place can discourage criminals from engaging in trafficking and smuggling.

c. Protection of Vulnerable Populations:

Border patrol enforcement can provide protection to vulnerable populations, such as migrants and refugees, by preventing them from falling into the hands of human traffickers. By intercepting individuals at borders, border control agencies can safeguard these populations from exploitation and abuse.

VII. Negative Impacts and Unintended Consequences

a. Displacement of Trafficking Routes and "Balloon Effect":

Strict border patrol in one area can lead to the displacement of trafficking routes to other, potentially more vulnerable, regions. This phenomenon, often referred to as the "balloon effect," highlights how intensified enforcement in one area may inadvertently shift criminal activities elsewhere.

b. Increased Violence and Conflict in Border Regions:

In some cases, heightened border patrol enforcement can lead to an escalation of violence and conflict in border regions. Criminal organizations may become more aggressive in response to increased pressure, potentially endangering local communities and law enforcement personnel.

c. Potential for Human Rights Abuses:

An unintended consequence of rigorous border patrol measures is the potential for human rights abuses. Excessive use of force, mistreatment of migrants or detainees, and denial of access to humanitarian assistance are concerns that need to be carefully managed to ensure the respect of human rights and international law.

VIII. International Cooperation and Legal Frameworks

a. Overview of Relevant International Conventions and Agreements (e.g., UNTOC):

A cornerstone of international efforts to combat illicit trafficking is the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), commonly known as the Palermo Convention. Adopted in 2000, UNTOC provides a comprehensive legal framework to address various forms of organized crime, including illicit trafficking. The Convention is complemented by its protocols, such as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

These agreements set out obligations for states to enact domestic legislation, establish effective criminal justice systems, and collaborate internationally to prevent and combat illicit trafficking. UNTOC's focus on cooperation, information sharing, and mutual legal assistance serves as a cornerstone for building a united front against the scourge of transnational crime.

Questions to Ponder

1. How can border patrol agencies work collaboratively with international organizations, such as UNODC and INTERPOL, to develop comprehensive strategies that address the complexities of illicit trafficking?
2. How can border patrol agencies effectively balance the dual objectives of security enhancement and the protection of human rights when addressing illicit trafficking?
3. How can border patrol efforts be aligned with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly those related to peace, justice, strong institutions, and partnerships, to achieve holistic and sustainable outcomes?
4. What measures can be taken to address the unintended consequences of border control enforcement, such as the displacement of trafficking routes and the potential for increased violence in border regions?
5. What role does public awareness and education play in reducing the demand for illicitly trafficked goods, and how can border patrol agencies collaborate with civil society to achieve this goal?
6. How can border patrol strategies adapt to the evolving tactics of traffickers, particularly in the face of technological advancements and changes in trafficking routes?
7. What role does advanced technology, such as artificial intelligence, drones, and biometric identification, play in enhancing the effectiveness of border patrol enforcement against modern forms of illicit trafficking?

Bibliography

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP_2020_15jan_web.pdf

<https://www.cbp.gov/frontline/border-crisis-cbp-s-response>

https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/migration_initiatives_2018_0.pdf

<https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwi3n9mn-dGAAxVWRvEDHb5aA_wQFnoECAgQAO&url=https%3A%2F%2Fec.europa.eu%2Fsocial%2FBlobServlet%3FdocId%3D19080%26langId%3Den&usg=AOvVaw06PPGSqXk0Wndzbsxwf1J2&opi=89978449 (pdf will be downloaded to your computer if you click on the link!)

