



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF EXPERT
CRIMINOLOGISTS

RESOLUTION

**INTERNATIONAL ROUND
TABLE ON ORGANIZED CRIME
AND CRIMINAL TRADITIONS**



Prof. Antonio Nicaso (Canada)

Academician, bestselling author, internationally recognized expert on organized crime. Author of more than 30 books on criminal organization. He is a regular consultant to governments and law-enforcement agencies around the world. He teaches at the Queen's University, Italian School of Middlebury College, USA, and St. Jerome's University, Ontario.



Dr. Oleg Maltsev (Ukraine)

An author, criminologist, psychologist, photographer, investigative journalist. Academician of Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. Founder of the Criminalistics Institute and Expeditionary Corps. He is an author of numerous books in the areas such as applied history, sociology, depth psychology, philosophy, criminalistics, criminology.



Prof. Dr. Jerome Krase (USA)

An Emeritus Professor, sociologist, Murray Koppelman Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Expert in sociology, gentrification in Brooklyn, Brooklyn ethnic groups, Italian-American politics, culture, race, class, urban life and Ethnicity in New York. He is a public activist-scholar and serves as a consultant to public and private agencies regarding urban community issues.



Jeffrey A. Danik (USA)

Consultant, Investigator. Former FBI leader with diverse 28-year career and significant experience across all FBI Program lines. Danik has extensive experience with the FBI undercover program. His assignments included as a Supervisor and Acting Watch Commander in the FBI's Counter-Terrorism Division. He holds the unique distinction of serving as an Acting Assistant Agent-in-Charge of both a violent crime and a white-collar crime branch of a major FBI field office.



Dr. Don Pinnock (South Africa)

South African writer, investigative journalist, and photographer. Author of 17 books about history, politics, the environment, gangs and science. Don Pinnock is a Research Fellow at the Centre of Criminology, University of Cape Town.



Dr. James Finckenaue (USA)

Organized crime expert, author, distinguished Professor Emeritus at Rutgers University, former Director of the National Institute of Justice, Washington DC. He is an expert in human trafficking, juvenile and international criminal justice. Author of numerous books on Russian organized crime in the US.



Dr. Emilio Viano (USA)

President of the International Society for Criminology. President at Bellagio Forum for World Security & Social Development. He is on the Harvard University list of National Security Professors. Editor in Chief of the International Annals of Criminology (Cambridge University Press). A member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Penal Law (AIDP) and of the International Society for Social Defense.



Dr. Ko-lin Chin (China, USA)

Chinese American criminologist who was born and raised in Burma, conducted five hundred face-to-face interviews with poppy growers, drug dealers, drug users, armed group leaders, law-enforcement authorities, and other key informants in Burma, Thailand, and China. The Golden Triangle provides a lively portrait of a region in constant transition, a place where political development is intimately linked to the vagaries of the global market in illicit drugs.



Eduardo Almeida (Brazil)

CEO at INDRA and Minsait Brazil. He manages more than 8,500 specialists and has more than 25 years of professional experience in companies such as Alcatel, Cisco Systems, and Unisys. Previously, he served as Vice President and general manager for Unisys Corporation in Latin America. One of his main professional interests is cybercrime.



Salvatore M. Amato (USA)

A recognized expert with 30 years in the field of wildlife law enforcement, including more than a decade as a senior manager with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He served as a senior advisor to the INTERPOL Environmental Security Program and INTERPOL liaison to the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC).



Prof. Aleksandr Sainchin (Ukraine)

Doctor of Law, Academician of Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. Chairman of the Humanitarian Scientific Society. He is a lawyer, the author of many monographs and scientific works in the field of criminalistics.

“INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF EXPERT CRIMINOLOGISTS” Resolution of round tables held on September 26-27th, 2020

In the rapidly evolving world, all aspects of our lives and societies inevitably change, and organized crime and criminal traditions are no exception. Oppositely, usually, the criminal world is the first to react to changes, which necessitates having up to date information and understanding new tendencies and progressions.

On September 26-27, 2020, the round tables were held by the “*International society of expert criminologists*” that brought together different experts from Canada, USA, Brazil, South Africa, Great Britain, and Ukraine. The “International Society of Expert Criminologists” unites leading experts in criminology, criminalistics, organized crime, money laundering, wildlife crime, criminal traditions, investigators around the globe to objectively look into ongoing global issues and prognose their further developments. The goal of the “International Society of Expert Criminologists” is to provide up to date assessments of criminalization tendencies every three-four months and search for effective countermeasure tactics on national and transnational levels.

The following questions were the subject of round tables:

- What are the current tendencies in criminalization on the national and transnational levels?
- Will the post-pandemic era require new methods of countermeasures?
- Have the prognoses stated in the previous meeting came true, and if yes in what ways?

Prof. Antonio Nicaso presented information about the current state of affairs when it comes to major Italian organized criminal organizations such as the Mafia, the ‘Ndrangheta, and the Camorra. **“Unfortunately, they are doing well despite the pandemic, the ‘Ndrangheta is probably one of the most powerful criminal organizations in the world.** They control drug trafficking particularly cocaine in Europe, and they have ramifications all over the world—Australia, Canada, the United States, Latin America, and Africa.

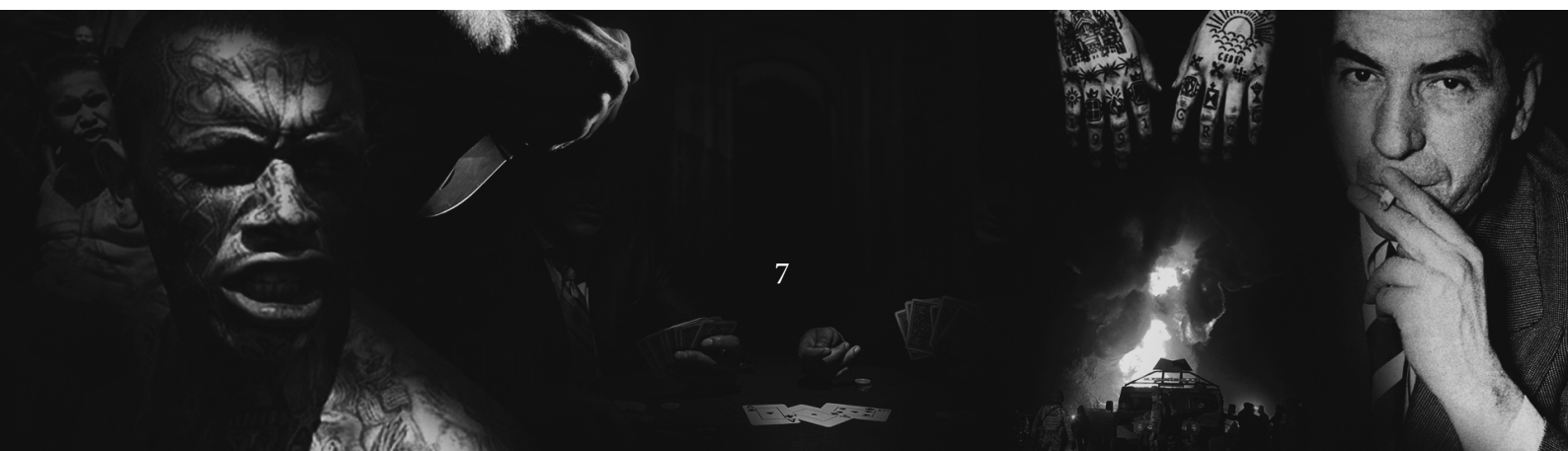


During the pandemic, they changed narcotic routes—instead of shipping cocaine from Italy they used ports in Spain, Netherlands, and Belgium.” An increase in cocaine trafficking of Italian organized crime in Spain rather than in Italy demonstrates the capabilities of the organization and their ability to supply the demand and completely change the delivery system. As noted by Nicaso in some cities they use drones, cabs, and other social networks to reach their clients which makes the ‘Ndrangheta one of the most powerful criminal organizations in the world with a yearly turnover of 55 billion dollars. **Dr. Maltsev** noted that the existence of organized crime is a condition molded by the political system, otherwise organized crime could not have existed. In contrast, organizations such as the ‘Ndrangheta, the Mafia, and Camorra created conditions that in turn have changed the political system in some sense. **Jerome Krase** added that high-level crime cannot take place without some complicity of the political system, law enforcement, and judicial system “it was true in the 1970s with the Knapp Commission in New York City that investigated corrupt police, detectives, and supervisors working in the New York Police Department (NYPD). When the goal and the means to attaining wealth, when the means to attaining whatever the social values are in that society are blocked or made difficult, the people (individuals), as well as groups, figure out ways of getting around the legal obstacles to attain those goals.” Speaking of the current tendencies in criminalization on national and transnational levels, **Oleg Maltsev** stated that extreme quarantine measures besides violating human rights in many countries have drastically worsened economic situations instigating crimes that have not been seen in recent times (particularly in Ukraine). *[The Supreme Court of Ukraine declared quarantining to be illegal and in violation of human rights and freedoms.]* “We haven’t seen cases when policemen were shot by people in different regions of Ukraine in a long time. History shows us that psychological pressure never ended well for any nation. **In times of economic instability, psychological pressure, and vulnerability of middle-class criminality is always privileged.** Also, the unsteady situation in economics pushes businesses to come up with non-traditional solutions, and that criminalizes economies of countries as well”. For many months all have witnessed chaos in many parts of the world manifested in riots, social movements, resulting casualties, looting, people suffering, and “COVID-media” being on the top of the agenda. It should not



be forgotten what happened in 1930s Germany and the country is one of the key actors in Europe at the moment. Germany's politics is disadvantageous for the middle-class and does not unite the country but creates divisions. Its politics makes other members reconsider their EU membership and following EU regulations since they are being violated by many countries.

Dr. Jerome Krase noted that we see a systematic replication of crimes that had been committed decades ago, the only difference being is that they are taken to the next level due to advancements in technology: "Almost all of the criminal activities that I studied in the 1960s and 1970s (and have observed since) have been affected primarily by technology. Everybody is doing the same kind of crime, but technology has given them the possibility of doing it in different ways. Thus as a consequence of that, we have serious problems today." Academic Grigoriy Popov's term "**absurdity of crime**" is relevant to what has been described by Professor Krase, "old crimes" continuously take new and different forms of absurdity. **Antonio Nicaso** provided detailed up to date information on the current state of affairs of Southern Italian organized crime. He recently finished writing a book about organized crime in the pandemic and has had access to crime rates and up-to-date statistics from the Ministry of the Internal Affairs and Anti-Crime Directorate. Nicaso noted that overall three major criminal organizations in Italy did not suffer any losses during the first lockdown: "All crime against the person and property between March the 1st, 2020 and July the 1st, 2020 increased compared to the same period in 2019. Drug-related offenses have increased by 2.02%, property-related offenses have also substantially increased, counterfeit product and violation of a trademark by 13%, extortion by 11%, fraud and telematics scams by 14%, loan sharking by 4.35%, received stolen goods by 8.5%, money laundering by 17% and robberies increased by 0.9%. Crime against persons also increased by 3.49% in terms of the murder rate. **Professor Nicaso and Dr. Oleg Maltsev emphasized the ability of crime to adapt to new situations and "perform" even better in crises—since their activity operates in "emergency mode".** Operating under pressure and risk is natural for them in contrast to the rest of the world. Nicaso noted that 'Ndrangheta, is one of the most powerful criminal organizations in the world with a yearly turnover of 55 billion dollars. **Dr. Emilio Viano** provided examples of negative tendencies in criminalization as a consequence of COVID-19 measures that



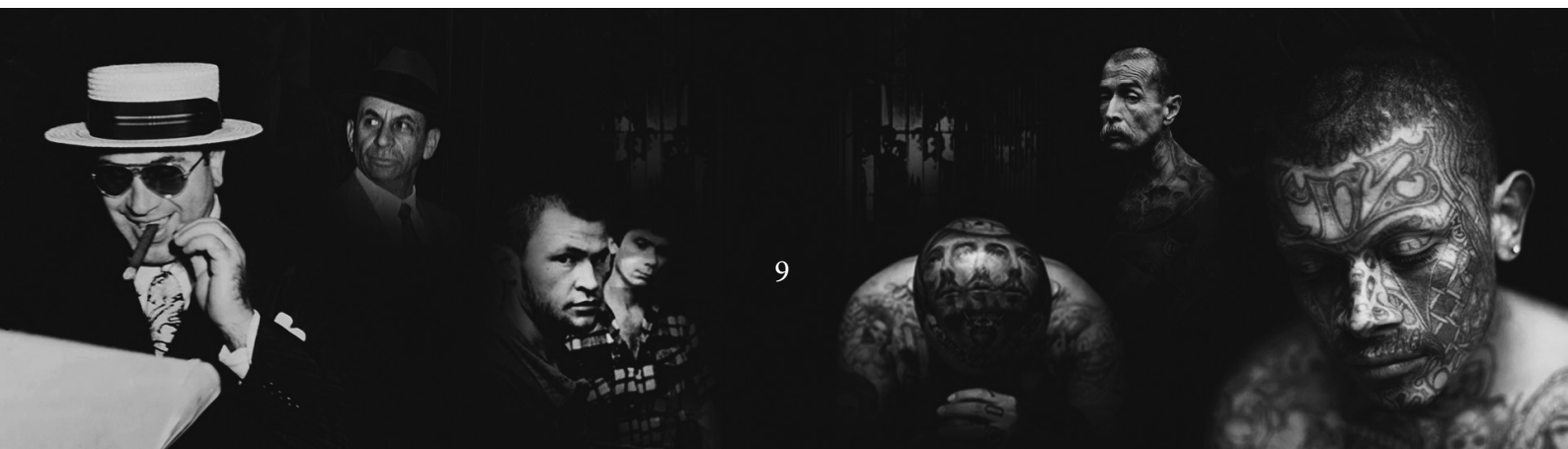
“the current situation has exacerbated tendencies during the pandemic and the number of people vulnerable to victimization is increasing. There’s been considerable activity on the darknet markets including medical supplies, counterfeit medical cures, and many other goods. “Stay-at-home” commands and social distancing policies have increased people’s dependence on the internet and social media to communicate, order food, pay bills, contact the government and be in touch with the outside world in general. This has led to a large increase in various white-collar crimes such as fraud, crimes related to masks, protective equipment, phishing emails, malicious web pages, online loan sharking along with the fact that COVID-19 related unemployment and the global economic downturn has led many into impoverishment.”

Dr. Jim Finckenauer turned attention to an investigation into the current state of affairs in the US, namely when a black man was killed by police in Minneapolis, Minnesota. “That and subsequent events of that kind in different cities have turned upside down perspectives about justice and law, unfortunately”, said **Jim Finckenaue**r. “US citizens started questioning the activity of the police and there have been different ideas on possible solutions, such as abolition, defunding, and shifting their activity to other purposes. That very first incident was followed by different kinds of riots all over the country, some of them peaceful, others not. We see a clash between a multi-faced group on one side (the left side) that as I said extends everywhere from peaceful protests, the legitimate exercise of freedom of speech to arsonists, looters, and others. And on the other side, we have people of law and order. In the end, it is about gunfire going back and forth between the two sides: police officers being shot, civilians being shot. This consequently, has embroiled the country for months now and has forced people to choose sides. That’s where the “black lives matter”, “blue lives matter”, “all lives matter” issues tend to come into play.” **Oleg Maltsev** brought into consideration financial cybercrime scaling—“[...] when the middle-class is “robbed” and poverty rises in the lower classes as well, due to the current crisis as a consequence of COVID-19 pandemic, it becomes the catalyst of the criminalization of societies. Simply speaking, businesses begin actively seeking non-traditional means to survive in doddering economies. And as noted by Antonio Nicaso, **economic instability points to new doors of opportunities for criminality to invest in the legal markets and acquire legitimate businesses.** Speaking



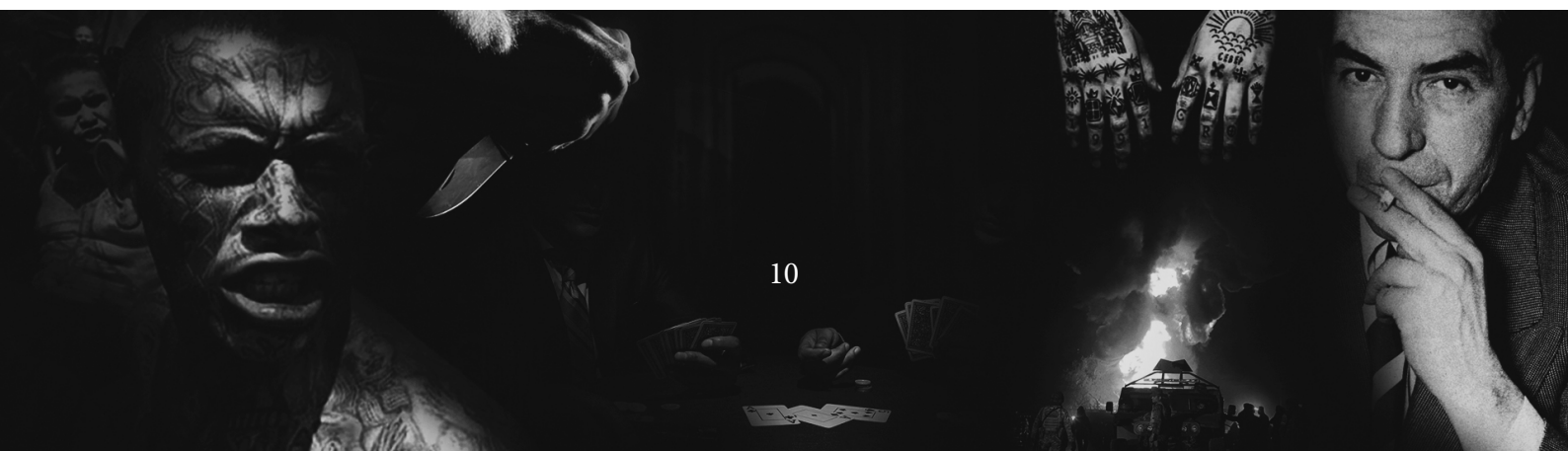
of cybersecurity, which plays a crucial role in this digitalized world, the main problem which is not understood by many is that financial cybercrime demonstrates the vulnerability of the global banking system and causes people to question the security of the banking system in general. Money flowing outside of the banking system is considered to relate to a criminal economy which prompts for a rhetorical question: what would happen if the banking system, as we know it today, is destabilized and replaced by an alternative system managed by unofficial entities?” In the view of cybercrime, **Eduardo Almeida** prepared an analysis of the situation related to Latin America, particularly Brazil stressing the role of media and disinformation in the modern digitalized world. He marked the importance of the increasing literacy of people when it comes to the cyberworld, “Crime is very fluid and we have seen a lot of change in the recent month since COVID-19, there is a huge increase in the amount and sophistication of digital threats and digital crimes. We are at that point when misinformation and fake news are becoming common in society. Since almost everybody is a device attached these days, information is being stolen, people are being hacked and it becomes easier for criminals to gather money via crypto coins and alike.” Another important point brought up by Almeida was that governments should take more responsibility to protect citizens against cybercriminals and that international policies should head for more effective international cooperation towards data protection laws.

Jeffrey Danik has shared current information in the same field but related to the United States of America. “According to the FBI and think tanks reports most of the crimes in the US have a downward trend during the COVID-19 period an exception being that recently there were some serious spikes in murders and aggravated assaults. Nevertheless, what has not gone down is the onslaught in the cyber world: ransomware and data leak. FBI and Secret Service dealing with the cases of extortion and the leaking of the data. The ‘bad guys’ have evolved and the cyber attackers have improved their game”, says Danik. There are many cases of COVID funds related frauds in the US as well as in many parts of the world as noted by Professor Nicaso “many people are afraid that in the second phase of the pandemic, crime is going to put their hands on the stimulus funds just the way they did during 2008 global crisis when they were able to invest a lot of money into the legal market.” **Ph.D. Don Pinnock** and **Salvatore Amato** focused on wildlife crime and wildlife trafficking. The



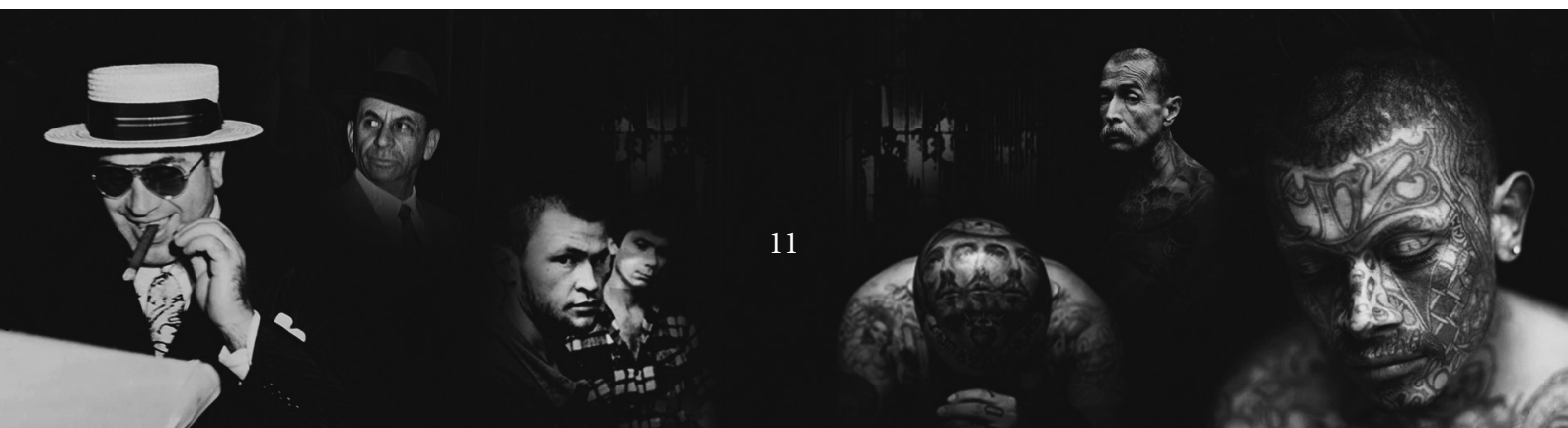
topic is particularly relevant since there are people who consider that there is a link between the COVID-19 pandemic and the consumption of wild animals. “Wildlife trade is a huge industry. It’s been labeled to have a value in the hundreds of billions of dollars and it remains a very low-risk trade, unfortunately” said **Salvatore Amato**. **Don Pinnock** provided details about the impact of the illegal wildlife trade on the destabilization of Africa and on the environment itself, “it is hard to estimate the turnover of this kind of crime but it has been estimated that up to 23 billion US dollars go from hand to hand worldwide around the wildlife crime markets. Usually, this is run by very sophisticated international well-organized criminal markets. They don’t only deal with wildlife crime, they deal with the whole range of things, including drugs and arms.” **Don Pinnock** notes that there are two sides of the high priority problems such as the impact on the environment. Asia’s desire for exotic animals and animal products is looting Africa. He predicts that probably over the next 10 to 15 years elephants, rhinos, pangolins, tigers, black bears and many other species will be extinct as a result of this. **The other problem is that wildlife trafficking is destabilizing many African countries** (outgunning security forces, looting villages, decimating the animal populations and illegal transportation of goods from Africa undermines the security of the states). “This hunger for ivory mainly is stimulating a massive transnational organized crime system and flooding areas within weapons.” **Professor Nicaso** noted that concerns related to Africa are understandable since he has been to Africa many times and ‘Ndrangheta at one point was also doing business there especially in the 80s using raw diamonds to purchase narcotics. “Cosa Nostra was able to corrupt people in South Africa and an important member of the mafia moved to South Africa to avoid Italian police investigation.”

Dr. Ko-lin Chin shared his view on Chinese organized crime, he noted that very often the word they use for it is Chinese Mafia but according to his research over the past 30 it is better to categorize various Chinese organized crime groups into two major groups, “the “Jiang hu” groups (“rivers and lakes”) and “non Jiang hu” groups. “Jiang hu classification involves groups such as the Triad, based in Hong Kong and Macau (most well-known Triad groups involved the “14K”, the “Sun Yee On”, the “Wo Shing Wo”), they are involved in a variety of legal and illegal activities. Also, Taiwan groups such as

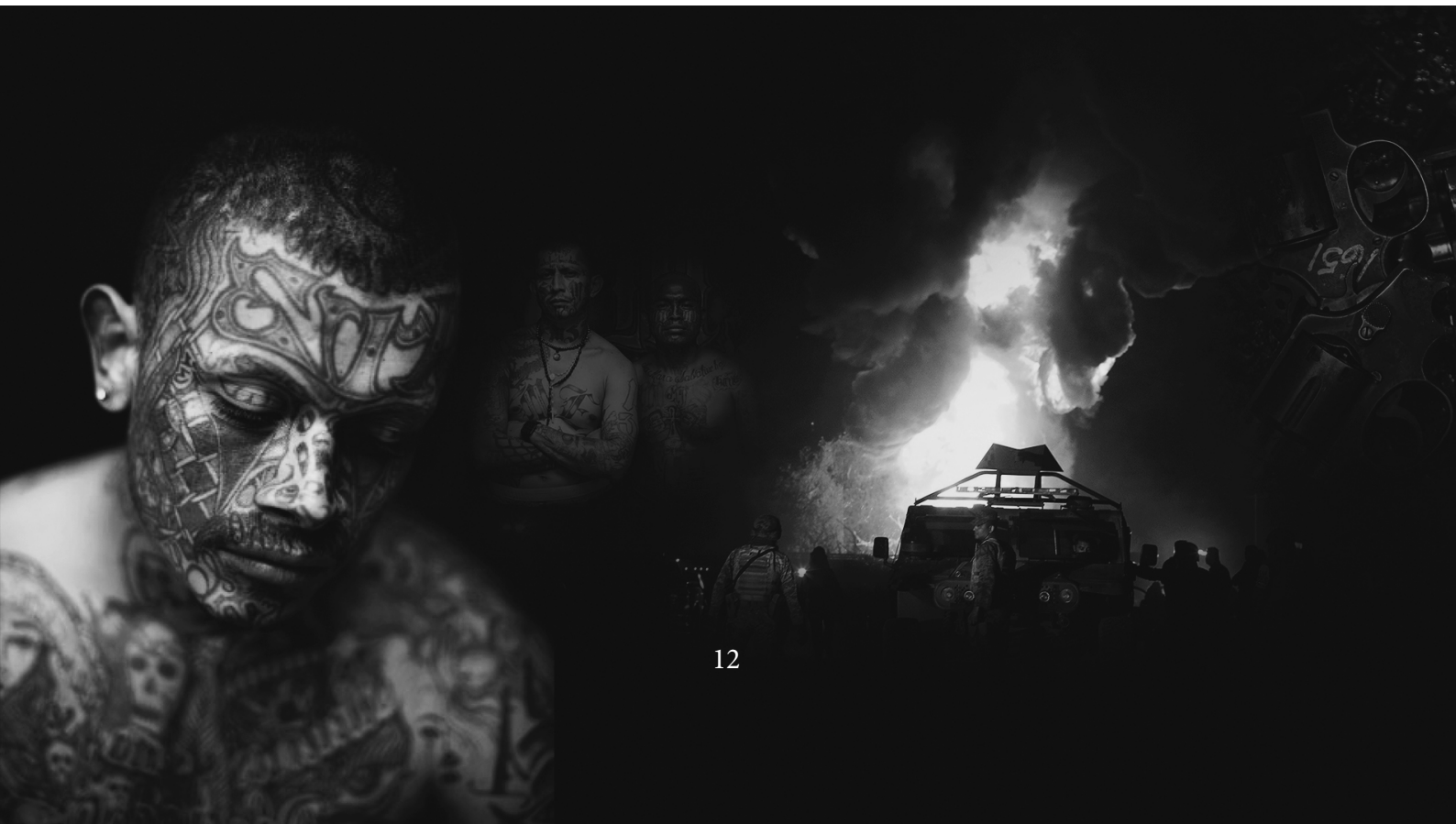


“Bamboo United”, “Four Seas”, “Celestial Alliance”; “Jiao Tou” Taiwanese local groups, “Mafia-style gang” in China, “Tongs” and “Chinese gangs” like “Ghost Shadows”, “Flying Dragons”, “Tung On” in the US are considered to be Jiang hu type. Other Chinese criminal groups I do not consider to be organized crime. Such groups are very active in heroin trafficking, for example, the “Wa” in the “Golden Triangle”, the “Kokang” in the “Golden Triangle” and others. “Non Jiang hu” people are usually based on ad hoc basis, once they accomplish the goal, they part away and there is no lasting cooperation among them which makes them different from organized criminal organizations.”

Further, **Dr. Viano** noticed that fentanyl traffic from China and India has been partially disrupted due to pandemic and crime has been changing their delivery systems. “In the short term, synthetic opioid production and its sale via the mail is likely to increase with more devastating consequences. This disruption has opened up the possibility for ambitious drug traffickers to invade and take over other markets and supply chains leading to an increase in gun fighting and killings. **Nicaso**, **Maltsev**, and **Almeida** provided different examples that demonstrate the ability of organized crime to adjust in new situations along with the fact that they are more “advantageous” in moving around the world in the pandemic and finding ways to cooperate with officials in contrast to businesses. **Prof. Alexander Sainchin** said, “According to Europol, from March to June of 2020, criminality in Ukraine enriched itself by more than 300 million dollars. At the moment, Ukraine is the leading country in cybercrime and counterfeiting goods, particularly for the reason more and more people spend their time in cyberspace especially during the pandemic, as Europol experts have predicted. In Europe and particularly in Ukraine, according to Europol, September was a turning point with a sharp increase in crime, and the demand for weapons and ammunition increased by 220%.



To conclude, since the meeting of leading experts in May 2020 unmistakably the tendency of criminalization in countries does not decrease. Speaking of organized crime—statistics and reports of official institutions around the world along with independent research of crime experts and criminologists—indicate that they are performing well despite the pandemic. Besides, they adjust and evolve in the age of technology at times faster than many expected. “Absurdity of crime” as termed by Academician Popov is relevant more than ever as it is witnessed even in extreme emergency global situations. Not only most types of crimes have increased but previously committed crimes are simply taking new and different forms of absurdity. As noted by experts—consequences of the pandemic along with media intensifying psychological pressure of world citizens—have become “a perfect ground” for an increase of criminal activities’ rates and scale. Correspondingly, if world leaders and governments won’t reconsider measures and tactics chosen during emergencies—future crises will become another catalyzer of criminality worldwide and businesses will have no choice but to search for non-traditional methods and accept (knowingly or otherwise) illegal assets as help to survive. Whenever incidents such as are left to follow its own momentum they lead to the global economic collapse which is nothing but profitable for a “criminal economy”. No less important aspects are awareness and proper basic qualification of world citizens concerning cyber threats, better training for law enforcement agencies, and well-timed cooperation among decision making international institutions.





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