

# THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TERRORISM AND VIOLENT CRIME, ORGANIZED CRIME, AND CORRUPTION AS A SUBJECT MATTER OF CRIMINALISTICS

Review Article

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**Abstract:** This paper discusses the relationship between terrorism and violent crime, organized crime, and corruption as a subject matter of criminalistics. It is clear that their relationship is multiple and in certain situations they represent significant mutual support, which is manifested in terms of the emergence of different manifestations as a product of their symbiosis. Since terrorism shares common features with violent crime, organized crime, and corruption, the aim of this paper is to consider the relationship between them, both because of their similarity and the actuality of their forms of manifestation, which certainly indicates their interconnectedness and different influences, and also because of the possible strategies for their prevention, detection, clarification and proof, which is of special importance for criminalistics, more precisely, its theory and practice.

**Keywords:** criminalistics, terrorism, violent crime, organized crime, corruption, strategy, prevention.

## INTRODUCTION

Terrorism-related, violent crime-related, organized crime-related offenses and corruption are negative social phenomena which substantially affect every country and its basic values. Specifically, the permanent criminal activity of individuals and groups who use violence and acquire considerable illicit profits with the support of various illegal activities that take place within certain entities directly affects security and political life in many countries. At the same

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time, “ideological groups, organizations and movements intimidate citizens and governments with the systematic use of armed violence in an effort to achieve certain political goals” (Amidžić, 2013: 1). Regarding the relation of terrorism to violent crime, it is clear that there is a certain connection which is reflected in the various forms of violence that are characteristic for them (Marković, 2007: 204). This indicates the fact that the manner of committing certain terrorist acts is the same as with some criminal acts that fall into the group of violent crime. Also, a large number of terrorist organizations would not be able to function without financial resources (especially if they are not financed by a state), and for that reason they are forced to engage in various forms of organized crime. Nowadays, terrorism has become a very lucrative business, and the reasons for this are mostly financial in nature, since the profits acquired from any combination of crime and politics, including terrorism as a perverted and illegal, but still policy, is very large (Teofilović, Terofilović and Teofilović , 2016).

The relationship between terrorism and corruption attracts special attention. In any country where endemic corruption is prevalent, it has made the country itself or its neighbors vulnerable to terrorist activities, as terrorist organizations are willing to use it to fund and carry out their actions. Like criminals and those willing to take bribes, terrorist organizations depend on the same legal gray areas and the porosity of the financial sector to direct their funding. As such, no country is completely immune (OECD, 2017: 1).

The specifics of these relations attract the attention of criminal sciences, especially criminalistics. Thus, all criminal sciences are connected by the same general object of scientific research – crime. Criminal sciences study different aspects of crime. Thus, criminalistics, within crime (as a phenomenon understood in a broader sense), explores regularities important for detecting and proving crimes and perpetrators, as well as the prevention of using criminal methods (there are prevention methods which are not criminal) (Simonović and Pena, 2010: 6). In this regard, it is clear that the specifics of the relationship between terrorism and violent crime, organized crime, and corruption are of great importance for the formation of a quality criminal approach to preventing, detecting, clarifying and proving these forms of crime.

A review of the literature has identified papers addressing the relationship between terrorism and violent crime, organized crime, and corruption (Jenkins, 1974; Duynes, 1996; Sen, 1997; Farer, 1999; Shelley & Picarelli, 2002; Helfand, 2003; Shelley, 2003; Bjornehed, 2004;, 2006; Deliso, 2007; Marković, 2007; Mijalković, 2008; Šikman, 2009; Amidžić, 2013; Cvetanović, 2017).

The paper presents the relationship between terrorism and violent crime, the relationship between terrorism and organized crime, and the relationship between terrorism and corruption.

## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TERRORISM AND VIOLENT CRIME

“Violent crime is often defined in the criminological literature as crime that includes crimes with elements of violence, that is, a crime in which a perpetrator uses or threatens to use harmful force upon a victim” (Marković, 2007: 203-204). Violent crimes are criminalized behaviors, in which a perpetrator uses or threatens to use violent force upon legally protected goods and values, that is, they represent the illegal use of force or threat upon persons, that is, things. Thus, violent crimes can be regarded as individual criminal offenses against life and body (e.g. various types of murder, etc.), criminal offenses against property (robbery, robbery, etc.), then criminal offenses against the freedom and rights of a man and citizen, as well as all other criminal offenses in which force or serious threat is used (Šikman, 2009a: 37).

Terrorism is a specific type of crime that is largely associated with violent crime. If we look at the very definition, characteristics and the criminalization of crime of terrorism, it is clear that there are elements of violence that are inherent in various forms of violent crime.

“Among the manifestations of criminal behavior, it is difficult to find one that provokes such a strong reaction among the inhabitants of any part of the world, as is the case with violent crime. Unlike some other types of crime (such as property crime), which often lack condemnation of the crime and its perpetrator, responses to violent acts are violent and often rejected. This fact is well known to the bodies of formal social control, as well as to the media and the creators of the products of mass culture. The former often use the indignation of citizens and their fear of victimization to sharpen the punitive reaction to all crime, the media flood consumers with sensationalist portrayals of violent acts, the authors of popular culture shock viewers and readers with the most bizarre stories that constantly push the boundaries of brutality” (Ignjatović, 2011: 181-182).

Thus, “all violent behaviors have a unique, general feature, which connects them with each other. Specifically, the consequence of all violent behaviors is harm to the victim, which is physically and/or mentally inflicted with physical force, of lesser or greater intensity, which can lead to the destruction of the victim’s life. Thus, in the sphere of violent behavior, there are violent acts of very different nature and intensity, from real insult to murder, from malice to serious acts of terror. The most common and typical legal designations for violent behavior are the following: violence, force, threats and abuse” (Marković, 2007: 204). In order to clarify the relationship between terrorism and violent crime as precisely as possible, we must point out the very characteristics of terrorism that are inherent in violent crime. Thus, terrorism can be said to represent a campaign of violence (Jenkins, 1974: 2). Therefore, we have already stated that a terrorist act itself is an act of violence, that is, willful and inten-

tional use of violence or threat of violence, where innocent victims are the main targets. When carrying out a terrorist attack, terrorists try to cause as much pain and suffering as possible, both to the immediate victims and to the persons who represent “secondary victims”, that is, to the family and friends of the victims. Modern terrorism is characterized by increasing internationality. In other words, modern terrorism does not know the existence of state borders and is a security-threatening phenomenon at the global level. Also, brutality during terrorist attacks is pronounced. The ways in which terrorist attacks are carried out are very diverse. They can be carried out with all available means and in different ways in order to achieve certain political or ideological goals, and the way of execution of acts and selection of funds is only a “tool” for its realization. A typical way of carrying out terrorist attacks is to place explosive devices in places where a large number of people gather (railways, airports, shopping malls, etc.). Also, terrorist attacks can be carried out using various chemical substances, causing fires and the like. The consequences of terrorism are various, but as with various types of violent crime, terrorist acts the lives and health of people the most, causing great material damage (Cvetanović, 2017: 6-7).

In connection with the above, we can say that terrorism contains elements of violence as well as various forms of violent crime, which is a significant dimension in terms of their relationship. Internationality is a very important feature for both terrorism and violent crime. Since terrorism has various forms, its manner of execution can be the same as with some criminal acts of violent crime (murder, kidnapping, damage to one’s property, etc.). The difference between terrorist acts and other violent crimes is reflected in the intention, that is, the goals to be achieved.

### THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME

Many years before terrorism had taken over the throne, organized crime had its golden age. Developing at a tremendous rate, organized crime has entered every sphere of modern life. It has become “the most profitable business.” Its trans-nationality and diversity are just some of its characteristics that make it a gold mine for many criminals (Stanojoska, 2011: 724). Due to the mentioned profitability, some commentators describe organized crime as “criminal enterprises” (Duyne, 1996: 53). In regard to the relationship between terrorism and organized crime, we can certainly talk about their similar characteristics, but also the elements that undoubtedly separate and differentiate them. The relationship between organized crime and terrorism can be viewed in several ways. Regarding the relationship between these two negative social phenomena, we should definitely start with understanding, that is, defining the content of terrorism and organized crime. If we look at the scientific interpretation

of the concepts of terrorism and organized crime, it is clear that there are fewer definitions of the concept of organized crime in terms of quantity, which are not operationally diametrically different. It seems much easier to produce a generally accepted definition of organized crime, which also has greater operational value. Nowadays, several hundred definitions are known and a much larger number of attempts to define terrorism, as opposed to organized crime. Also, “many of these definitions of terrorism differ diametrically from each other. Thus, it is not a lack of definitions or the impossibility of defining terrorism; the problem of defining terrorism lies in its enormous political use as a concept and in political interests, which are sometimes publicly and often secretly opposed” (Rakić, 2006: 745 -746; Šikman, 2009b: 48-49). Viewing terrorism and organized crime as a form of crime and a threat to the security of a modern state is conditioned by changed perceptions of terrorism and organized crime due to changing trends, tendencies and movements of terrorism and organized crime in global social changes that characterize social and political relations in the modern world. Accordingly, terrorism and organized crime primarily have a transnational character, they are characterized by being organized and conspiracy, and planned, deliberate, organized and long-term actions. In addition, the use of various forms of violence characterizes both phenomena (Šikman, 2009a: 43). Furthermore, terrorists and persons involved in transnational crime, while performing their criminal activities, use modern information technologies. The possibilities that information technology offers not only contribute to easier commission of terrorist or criminal activities, but also to more modern organization of terrorist and criminal groups, which is reflected in the new approach to online organization of terrorist and criminal organizations. Nowadays, modern, organized criminal or terrorist organizations form criminal or terrorist networks, which are characterized by great flexibility and mobility. Within their organizations, they have top experts at their disposal. These characteristics allow them to act quickly around the world (Selley, 2003: 303). They point to a certain connection and similarity between terrorism and organized crime. Since the preparation and commission of terrorist actions requires a substantial amount of money and stable sources of financing, terrorist organizations resort to various forms of organized crime in order to obtain financial resources for their terrorist actions. Therefore, they commit armed bank robberies, kidnappings due to ransom payments, blackmail, extortion and racketeering, and they are engaged in shadow economy and money laundering. Terrorist organizations are engaged in the sale and purchase of weapons on the world's illegal market. For this reason, it is important to control this form of organized crime, because the routes of illegal arms trade, as a rule, lead to terrorist organizations. One of the most stable sources of financing for terrorist organizations is drug trafficking. As a result, the connection between these two mentioned forms of crime is called narcoterrorism (Simonović and Pena, 2010).

This term is used in foreign and domestic policy. However, it should be noted that although the term is often used and serves as the basis for several decisions in political circles, its definition is ambiguous in that it has a different focus and implications depending on which part of the complex word is emphasized. The term narcoterrorism was first coined by Peruvian President Belaunde Terry in 1983 to qualify terrorist-type attacks against the police. Criminals involved in drug trafficking used terrorist methods to influence the country's policies. The phenomenon gained public attention in 1985, when the Medellin cartel joined forces with a terrorist group and attacked the Supreme Court in Bogotá (Colombia) to prevent the extradition of several top cocaine bosses to the United States, killing eleven judges. Thus, since the beginning of the 1990s, the definition of drug terrorism has been expanded, which led to great confusion (Krstić, 2017: 219-220). Emma Bjornehed points out that the definition of narcoterrorism is "almost double in character and the emphasis is on the aspect of drugs or terrorism, and these aspects can differ significantly." She also argues that it is a "problematic concept", in part because it may involve merging two phenomena and it can be argued that this will complicate rather than facilitate discussions of these two concepts (Bjornehed, 2004: 306-307).

Illegal drug trafficking is practiced by all terrorist organizations. The paths of illegal wholesale drug trafficking and terrorist organizations are very intertwined and often merge into the same criminal organizations and individuals. By surveilling and detecting the illegal routes of drug traffickers, the main financial sources of international and domestic terrorism are often found. By cutting off illegal drug routes, the financial flow of money to terrorist organizations is reduced. The same logistical potentials, roads, the methods of smuggling and the same smugglers are often used for illegal drug trafficking and transfer of terrorist funds (Simonović and Pena, 2010: 677).

"The term *narcoterrorism* is often given new content. The reports by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) point out that the link between drug trafficking and international terrorism is stronger than previously thought. It has been noticed that terrorists use drugs as a weapon of destruction against the West. The transport of drugs to the American continent is not only a motive for making financial profits, but also harming the American population, destroying the established system of values and the American way of life. It was concluded that drugs pose a threat to the national interests of America and accordingly it requires an appropriate response from the police force and special police services. In criminalistics, it is emphasized that the connection between criminal and terrorist organizations, which is evident in *narcoterrorism*, was first noticed in Colombia" (Simonović and Pena, 2010). There are also opinions that the mentioned phenomenon also exists in Serbia, where the Kosovo Albanian drug mafia, in cooperation with Serbian drug dealers, uses the same strategy (Simonović, 2004: 661).

An important source of funding for terrorist organizations is human trafficking and organized prostitution traffic. As terrorist organizations show great interest in procuring weapons of mass destruction, in this context, there is an illegal trade in nuclear materials, radioactive waste, chemical and biological agents and other hazardous materials. There are various forms of financial frauds such as money laundering, shadow economy and other financial frauds through which terrorist organizations secure certain sources of funding (Mijalkovic, 2008: 42; Shikman, 2009b: 50). The relationship between terrorism and organized crime can be functional and instrumental. A functional relationship exists when organized crime is used in purpose of terrorism, while an instrumental relationship exists when terrorist groups engage in organized crime and vice versa when an organized criminal group undertakes terrorist activities. Regardless of the fact that in certain situations the same entities engage in terrorism and organized crime, the border between these two types of criminal activities, as well as guilt, intent and criminal responsibility of perpetrators, is clear and unambiguous (Mijalković, 2008: 43).

Based on the above, it is clear that there is a significant connection between these two negative social phenomena. However, it is necessary to state the key difference between them. The mentioned difference is reflected in the ultimate goals of terrorism and organized crime. Thus, “it is generally known that a terrorist act seeks to achieve certain political goals.” The range of political goals to be achieved by terrorism is wide and requires consideration from all aspects, which give the terrorist act a political element. It is most often a matter of inconsistency between political goals and the means used to achieve them, which means that political goals are sought to be achieved in a way that is not allowed and unacceptable to social norms” (Šikman, 2009b: 51). In contrast to terrorism, the basic goal of organized crime<sup>2</sup> has an economic dimension, that is, it to make and increase profits, enrich and strengthen the economic power of organized criminal groups. The program platform of organized crime in general, and thus of transnational organized crime, is mainly aimed at creating profit, economic monopoly and economic power, with minimal risks and subsequent legalization of profits, monopoly and power. These are the priority goals of organized crime, and organized criminal activity is running in that direction, while other goals (e.g. political power) represent side effects of organized crime (Amidžić, 2013: 162). Specifically, a criminal organization is not of an ideological nature and it is not established for the purpose of achieving certain political, national, religious and similar ideals, ideas and goals. This feature is the basic distinguishing factor of a criminal organization in relation to a terrorist organization, which is strongly ideological in nature (either purely ideological

<sup>2</sup> “Organized crime is the commission of crimes by an organized criminal group or its members. An organized criminal group is a group of three or more persons who exist for a certain period of time and act in concert for the purpose of committing one or more criminal offenses punishable by imprisonment exceeding four years, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, financial or other benefits” (Stojanović and Kolarić, 2014).

or national-separatist) (Škulić, 2010: 21). However, it is evident that organized crime, whose perpetrators' initial and basic motive is material benefit, and after it has been acquired, organized crime inevitably gains characteristics of political power, which under certain circumstances can be transformed into terrorism or terror (Amidžić, 2013: 163).

In addition to the considered authentic possible model of transformation of organized crime into terrorism, many cases of cooperation between organized criminals and terrorists without intertwining their goals and strategies have been reported. It should also be borne in mind that terrorism as a specific violence for political purposes, at the same time represents a specific criminal activity and correlative links between organized criminal groups and terrorists are "infinite" (Mijalkovski, 2010: 226), which substantially complicates criminal activity.

## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TERRORISM AND CORRUPTION

The relationship between terrorism and corruption can be clearly seen through the generally accepted notion of corruption. Specifically, corruption represents the abuse of public position, public authority for the purpose of making private profit, at someone else's expense. "It generally means the abuse of a public, social or economic position, or actual or perceived influence based on that position with the aim of illegally gaining material or other benefit, political, status or economic advantage for oneself or for another" (Simonović and Pena, 2010). It manifests itself through various forms, including several elements, such as: bribery, embezzlement, fraud, extortion, the abuse of power, conflict of interest, favoritism, and nepotism as forms of favoritism (United Nations, 2004: 10-16). Corruption does not only occur in the public sector, but is also largely present in the private sector. Common characteristics of corruption in the public and private sectors are the mentioned forms through which it is realized. (Shikman, 2009a: 38). We can say with certainty that these are the forms used by terrorist organizations in order to achieve their goals

Identifying the links between corruption and terrorism is crucial to the fight against terrorism. Four main types of connections can be identified:

- Corruption and mismanagement hamper countries' ability to fight terrorism;
- Corruption facilitates international terrorist attacks;
- Corruption helps cross-border terrorist financing;
- Corruption and terrorist financing share methods for concealing money (OECD, 2017: 1).



It is clear that corruption is linked to terrorism in many segments. In the state administration and certain areas of social life, corruption is a crucial link with organized crime and terrorism. Specifically, practical experience shows that the link between government officials and organized crime perpetrators in many countries is more pronounced, meaningful and rooted than, for example, the link between government officials and terrorism perpetrators. Thus, the world is dominated by countries with organized crime, but not terrorism (Mijalkovski, 2004: 50-51). These facts show that corruption is more based on organized crime than terrorism.

Thus, hundreds of billions of dollars gained by transnational criminals, terrorists and insurgents through the global illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms trafficking, and other criminal activities often enter the legal economy with the help of corrupt facilitators: bankers, lawyers, real estate agents, and government officials. Money passes through banks, payment services, underground banking, money laundering-based trade and, more recently, cryptocurrency trading (Transparency International, 2018: 7).

In this regard, terrorist organizations skillfully exploit government officials who are prone to corruption and who are associated with the perpetrators of identical or similar activities outside their home country. Terrorists also use officials from private sector organizations to achieve their goals. Specifically, during money transfer, terrorists successfully use employees in a financial institution (banks, brokerage firms, insurance companies), in order to obstruct obstacles in their financing. The association of terrorism and corruption is reflected in deep and lasting ties. Highly corrupt societies provide little opportunity for a legitimate social response directed toward these phenomena (Šikman, 2009a: 52).

Corruption facilitates crime and terrorism because it destroys governance, the economy, health, social order and sustainable development in all regions of the world. Non-state actors, such as criminals and terrorists, deliberately infiltrate the state, often influencing the legislature in order to pass laws in their favor. They therefore delegitimize state institutions, facilitating the rise of parallel structures challenging state forces. Corrupt individuals, through their positions, allow illegal entities to operate and generate financial gain (Transparency International, 2018: 5).

Thus, international representatives in the former Yugoslav states turned a blind eye to growing Wahhabism, even though they were well informed about the real situation on the ground. They saw their presence on the territory of the former Yugoslav states as a “heavenly mission”, and did not pay much attention to the arrival of foreign Muslims. So, in some cases, that lack of interest was related to corruption, while in other cases to fear or reckless performance of official duties. We assume that in some cases an order came from the top (a political decision). The way in which the mujahedin arrived, and later the expansion of the Wahhabi movement on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina

and Kosovo, as well as the activities of charitable organizations, confirms these facts. Prior to their arrival in the former Yugoslav states, foreign representatives who came to help and stabilize the situation due to armed conflicts, under the auspices of peace, received certain privileges by corrupt practices and various abuses (multimillion-dollar embezzlement and privatization). Since they gained great benefit in this way (enjoying the “heavenly mission”), international representatives in such an environment did not pay attention to the arrival of foreign Muslims and the expansion of Wahhabism on the territory of the former Yugoslav states. This lack of interest, as well as the failure to perform official duties in terms of preventing such a phenomenon, is a significant path that indicates and leads to corruption. Military intelligence services from Pakistan, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates have been integrated into NATO-sponsored military units (e.g., SFOR, KFOR, etc.) tasked with guaranteeing stability in the former Yugoslavia (Deliso 2007: 52 -53). Based on that, one can see the great role of the international community in the emergence of this situation. However, contingents from Islamic countries that found themselves in the mentioned military detachments did some other things besides keeping the peace. They supported the arrival of the mujahideen and the expansion of Wahhabism. For example, important details about Islamic subversion in Kosovo emerged from the testimony of Thomas Gambil, a former Marine, a former security officer of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), who was willing to talk about it. He worked in Kosovo from October 1999 to May 2004, and his contract with the OSCE was not extended due to the growing threat of radical Islam or his desire to point out the existence of a problem which the OSCE authorities in cooperation with the UNMIK authorities (United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo) wanted to sweep under the carpet (Deliso 2007: 53). Based on the above, we can conclude that the relationship between terrorism and corruption is multiple. What is a big problem of the society, and which arises from their relationship, is that corruption undermines the integrity of the combat readiness to counter terrorism and thus complicates the strategic approach to crime in this area.

### CONCLUSION

Based on all the above, the relationship and connection between terrorism and violent crime, organized crime, and corruption is clearly visible. We have seen that there is a certain connection between terrorism and violent crime that manifests itself through their connective tissue, which is violence. So, if we look at the structure of terrorism, it is clear that one of its basic elements is violence. However, there is a certain difference here; terrorist acts differ from other acts of violent crime in their intent and goals to be achieved.

Regarding the relationship between terrorism and organized crime, it is clear that they are characterized by a high degree of organization and conspiracy, as well as planned, thoughtful, organized and long-lasting actions. The key to their relationship is manifested in the fact that terrorism most often relies on organized crime in order to obtain financial resources, since terrorist activities require a large amount of money and stable sources of financing. In addition to their connection, there is a key difference between them, which is reflected in the ultimate goal. It is clear that terrorist acts seek to achieve certain political goals, which may be different, while organized crime has an economic dimension and its goal is to achieve and increase profits, enrich and strengthen the economic power of organized criminal groups. The relationship between terrorism and corruption attracts special attention. In fact, their relationship is most often realized in the way that terrorist organizations use the services of corrupt entities (bankers, lawyers, real estate agents, as well as civil servants) in order to achieve their goals. We have seen that their connection is particularly pronounced in the terrorist financing zone, where corrupt officials allow terrorists to place their money into the legitimate financial system. Also, it is clear that corruption undermines the integrity of combat readiness to counter terrorism, which greatly complicates the strategic approach to combating these phenomena.

In connection with the above, terrorism, violent crime, organized crime, and corruption in certain segments have significant similarities and differences, and their symbiosis gives a new dimension to their strength and the danger they cause, which attracts special attention of criminal sciences, including criminalistics. Their relationship and the shared strength they show makes it very difficult to find a quality criminalistic approach in terms of preventing, detecting, and proving them.

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