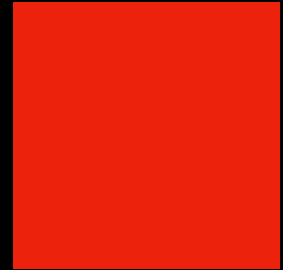


international consortium of investigative journalists:

special corps



{La Kaboom. L'enquête. La révélation.}

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//chairperson

navaj kunal anand

Salutations delegates,

This is Navaj Kunal Anand, the chairperson for the International Consortium Of Investigative Journalists: Special Corps at JYC'24. I take immense pleasure in welcoming you all to the seventh edition of Jodhamal Youth Conclave. I am a 12th grader pursuing humanities with keen interests in history and its conjecture with politics, fine arts, journalism, debates ,amongst a few. These interests have moulded me into Model United Nations conferences throughout my middle and high school. Taking our executive board's journalistic traits and the intriguing modern political and criminal scandal, we have set up "The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists: Special Corps.

This year at JYC, ICIJSC would stand as a dual cabinet committee consisting of agents from the intelligence agencies from around the world and the journalists of the ICIJ. This conjecture earns into opposing duality, wisdom and war, discernment and courage, reflection and action; blond(E). The agenda, though "classified" as of now would focus on the criminal struggles faced by both our investigative journalists as well as our special corps- the intelligence agents. basically, provoking the poised into petty power struggles. The committee would be set in a continued crisis notion, wherein the delegates would have to maintain the ethos and morality yet seek the very root cause of the concealed "mafia" of the perfect world. it is the tagline of the committee that the delegates shall pledge by "la kaboom, l'enquête, la révélation" meaning "the kaboom, the investigation, the reveal". In this perplexed of the committee, this duality going left and right, at the certain place and certain time shall boon into the revelation of the world's most notorious scandal.

Looking forward to experiencing the truest strength of intelligence, journalism and intellect, in the preponderance ethics and ethos, whilst dodging through the crisis overthrown ever after. One tip, don't get lost, lost in the heat of it all, lost in the thrill of it all. I hope your mother will be proud of you !

Wishing you godspeed, Glory
Because there'll be "mafia" you won't move

Signing in,
Navaj Kunal Anand
Chairperson
International Consortium of Investigative Journalists: Special Corps,

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//co-chairperson

samiah sami

Greetings future delegates,

My name is Samiah Sami. I am a sixteen-year-old student and it is a tremendous privilege for me to be the co-chairperson of international Consortium of Investigative Journalist: Special Corps of this year's edition of Jodhamal Youth Conclave. It is my esteemed honour to welcome you to its seventh edition.

I have always been inquisitive in discussing the issues about the international affairs, diplomacy and global problem-solving and it was because of this that I decided to introspect myself by partaking in Model United Nations. Since then, I have been actively involved in the MUN'S. This year also we aim to give every delegate an opportunity to let their voices be heard. Through this conference, delegates will be able to know more in-depth about the agenda and more importantly gain more interest in the events around. I look forward to be learning about you inside and outside the committee room, hearing your views on the subject area at hand and observing you play the roles of diplomats of different countries and portfolios effectively by reaching to a solution that caters the topic of discussion. I hope and aim to leave unforgettable memories, friendships and a memorable experience.

I am highly anticipative of zealous and quick witted delegates, and expect active participation and cooperation amongst one another to ensure a plain sailing and fruitful debating experience, without any setbacks. As a member of the Executive Board, I'll make sure to stay committed to ensuring a productive and enriching experience for all participants.

See you at the conference!

Wishing you godspeed, glory.

Sincerely,

Samiah Sami

Co-Chairperson

International Consortium of Investigative Journalist: Special Corps

//rapporteurs

tara basotra+adhvik mahajan

Dear delegates,

My name is Tara Basotra. I am currently studying in the 10th grade at Jodhamal Public School. I find great pleasure in public speaking and writing, which further accentuates my love for munning. I also often find myself spending my time listening to good quality music and exploring cinema. I also have a soft spot for dogs in my heart and being with them is just another one of my million ways to get through life.

All these things are very dear to me but for now the only thing that occupies my mind is this upcoming conference. I'm honoured to welcome you all to JYC'24 as the rapporteur of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists Special Corps. This year at JYC, not only are we looking forward to having some heated debates in our committee, but also to witness the delegates' passion and commitment to uphold all the ethics of journalism while competing to be the best. We would want all delegates to stand by transparency, accuracy, justice, and most importantly, the truth. We are looking forward to seeing the journalism the world needs. I truly hope that the executive board as a whole caters to your needs and expectations. Eagerly looking forward to hearing the voice of today.

I am Adhvik Mahajan, a 10th-grade student at Jodhamal Public School. My passion lies in business and management, and I intend to pursue the commerce stream for the next two years. While at school, I actively participate in MUN (Model United Nations) and STEM competitions.

We, in this esteemed assembly, are custodians of a potent weapon – the truth. As investigative journalists and intelligence agents, we are the bloodhounds sniffing out the narratives buried beneath layers of convenience. The Panama Papers stand as a stark reminder of the transformative power we wield. We are the piercing light that exposes the festering wounds of crimes, demanding accountability and reform. Your work involves delving into hidden truths that often elude the “perfect world.”

We must dig deep in the graves of those closed files and make our way across that dead end to the underworld and putting an end to the never ending conspiracy theories, here our commitment to truth transcends mere profession; it is our duty to connect the dots and illuminate reality.

As the rapporteur for this committee, I'll strive to facilitate a seamless and enthusiastic committee session for all of you.

Warm Regards,

Tara Basotra and Adhvik Mahajan

Rapporteurs

International Consortium of Investigative Journalists: Special Corps

/ Investigative Journalism: An Indispensable Pillar of Democracy

//About Investigative Journalism

Investigative journalism is the rigorous pursuit of uncovering hidden truths, often intentionally obscured by those in power. This form of journalism transcends mere news reporting, delving deep into the intricate web of facts and circumstances that conceal significant issues. It is a critical tool for ensuring transparency and accountability in society, providing the public with essential information that might otherwise remain hidden.

The essence of investigative journalism is encapsulated in the famous adage, "the pen is mightier than the sword." This phrase, penned by Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839, highlights the profound impact that well-researched and well-written journalism can have in exposing corruption, influencing public policy, and driving social change. Investigative journalists dedicate months or even years to a single story, meticulously collecting evidence, conducting interviews, and analyzing data to bring to light issues of political dishonesty, violence, commercial corruption, and other societal malfeasances.

Investigative journalism plays a crucial role in a functioning democracy by unveiling concealed matters, whether they are deliberately hidden by those in positions of power or inadvertently obscured within a chaotic mass of facts and circumstances. This type of journalism provides a necessary service to the public by shedding light on issues that affect their lives and their societies. Through detailed and in-depth reporting, investigative journalists expose wrongdoings and hold those in power accountable, thereby promoting transparency and fostering a culture of openness.

// Investigative Journalism Resources

The success of investigative journalism hinges on the effective utilization of various resources. Journalists employ a multifaceted approach to gather information, often combining public records, interviews, legal and tax documents, and other governmental resources to construct a comprehensive narrative. Each resource contributes uniquely to the process, enabling journalists to piece together complex puzzles and uncover hidden truths.

1. **Public Records and Databases:** Public records are invaluable in investigative journalism. They provide factual data that can be cross-referenced and corroborated. Access to databases containing legal documents, corporate filings, property records, and other public records is crucial for journalists to build their cases. Public records often serve as the foundation upon which investigative stories are built, offering concrete evidence that can substantiate claims and allegations.

2. Interviews: Conducting interviews is another cornerstone of investigative journalism. Interviews with experts, witnesses, and insiders can provide unique insights and firsthand accounts that enrich the investigation. These interactions can reveal perspectives and information not available in public records. Through interviews, journalists can obtain nuanced understandings of events and actions, gaining insights that help to contextualize and explain the facts uncovered.

3. Legal and Tax Reports: Legal documents and tax records often hold the key to uncovering financial irregularities and legal transgressions. Investigative journalists must be adept at interpreting these complex documents to uncover hidden truths. Analyzing legal and tax documents requires a thorough understanding of the law and financial systems, enabling journalists to identify discrepancies and potential illegal activities.

4. Undercover Work: When conventional methods fall short, investigative journalists may resort to undercover work. This method involves disguising one's identity to obtain information that would otherwise be inaccessible. It is a controversial yet sometimes necessary technique to expose hidden wrongdoing. Undercover work must be conducted ethically and responsibly, ensuring that the methods used are justified by the public interest served by the investigation.

5. Freedom of Information Requests: Utilizing Freedom of Information (FOI) requests can be a powerful tool to access government documents that are not readily available to the public. These requests can unveil critical information about governmental operations and decisions. FOI requests enable journalists to access documents and records that can provide insights into government actions, policies, and decisions that impact the public.

These resources are not merely tools for information gathering; they form the backbone of the investigative process. The goal is not just to amass sensitive information but to synthesize it into a coherent, factual narrative that enlightens the public. Effective investigative journalism requires a combination of these resources to build a comprehensive and compelling case that withstands scrutiny and provides clear, actionable insights to the public.

//Functions of Investigative Journalism

Investigative journalism serves several pivotal functions in a democratic society. Its primary role is to act as a watchdog, holding those in power accountable and exposing wrongdoing and hypocrisy. Here are some key functions:

1. Exposing Corruption and Malfeasance: Investigative journalism seeks to unearth corruption, fraud, and other illicit activities. By revealing these wrongdoings, journalists help to ensure that justice is served and that perpetrators are held accountable. Investigative reports can lead to legal action, policy changes, and increased public awareness, ultimately contributing to a more just and transparent society.

2. Providing Checks and Balances: In democracies, investigative journalism complements formal checks and balances by monitoring those in power. It acts as an informal check on the activities of individuals and

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institutions that might otherwise go unchecked. By scrutinizing the actions of those in power, investigative journalists help to prevent abuses and promote ethical behavior.

3. Informing the Public: One of the core functions of investigative journalism is to inform the public about issues that affect their lives. By uncovering and explaining complex issues, journalists empower citizens to make informed decisions. Investigative reports provide detailed information and analysis that can help the public understand the implications of various actions and policies.

4. Promoting Transparency: Transparency is a cornerstone of good governance. Investigative journalism promotes transparency by bringing hidden activities to light, thereby fostering a culture of openness and accountability. By exposing secretive actions and decisions, journalists contribute to a more transparent and accountable society.

5. Highlighting Systemic Issues: Investigative journalism not only focuses on individual cases of wrongdoing but also draws attention to broader systemic issues. By highlighting these issues, journalists can spark public debate and drive systemic change. Investigative reports can reveal patterns and trends that indicate larger problems, prompting calls for reform and change.

6. Defending Democracy: In many ways, investigative journalism is a defense mechanism for democracy. By exposing abuses of power and advocating for justice and transparency, investigative journalists play a crucial role in safeguarding democratic values and institutions. Investigative journalism ensures that those in power are held accountable, contributing to the health and vitality of democratic systems.

Investigative journalism can also serve as a catalyst for social and political change. By bringing attention to issues that may have been overlooked or ignored, investigative journalists can mobilize public opinion and prompt action from policymakers and authorities. This function of investigative journalism is particularly important in addressing social injustices and advocating for marginalized communities.

//Principles of Investigative Journalism

The practice of investigative journalism is governed by a set of principles that ensure the integrity and credibility of the work produced. These principles guide journalists in their pursuit of truth and accountability, helping to maintain high standards of ethical and professional conduct.

1. Independence: Investigative journalists must operate independently of political, corporate, or personal interests. Independence ensures that their work is unbiased and that they are free to pursue the truth wherever it leads. Journalists must avoid conflicts of interest and ensure that their reporting is not influenced by external pressures or agendas.

2. Accuracy and Fact-Checking: Accuracy is paramount in investigative journalism. Journalists must rigorously fact-check their information to ensure its veracity. Publishing false or misleading information can undermine the credibility of the journalist and the integrity of the investigation. Thorough fact-checking and verification

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are essential to maintaining the trust of the public and ensuring that investigative reports are reliable and credible.

3. Transparency: Transparency in methodology and sources is crucial. Journalists should be clear about their methods and provide attribution for their sources when possible. This transparency helps to build trust with the audience. By being open about their investigative processes, journalists can demonstrate the rigor and integrity of their work.

4. Accountability: Investigative journalists must hold themselves accountable to the highest ethical standards. This includes being willing to correct errors and being transparent about their own biases and limitations. Accountability involves acknowledging mistakes and taking responsibility for ensuring that investigative reports are accurate and fair.

5. Fairness: While investigative journalism often involves uncovering wrongdoing, it is essential to approach each investigation with fairness. This means giving subjects of investigation an opportunity to respond and ensuring that reporting is balanced and impartial. Fairness requires journalists to consider multiple perspectives and to avoid sensationalism or bias in their reporting.

6. Persistence and Tenacity: Investigative journalism requires a high degree of persistence and tenacity. Journalists must be willing to pursue a story over long periods, often in the face of obstacles and resistance. Investigative reporting involves extensive research, interviews, and analysis, and journalists must be prepared to invest significant time and effort to uncover the truth.

7. Courage: Investigative journalism often involves risks, including legal threats, physical danger, and personal repercussions. Journalists must have the courage to pursue difficult stories despite these risks. Courage is essential for journalists to confront powerful interests and to expose wrongdoing, even when it involves significant personal and professional challenges.

8. Ethical Undercover Work: When undercover work is necessary, it must be conducted ethically. This means not engaging in illegal activities and ensuring that the methods used are proportionate to the public interest served by the investigation. Ethical undercover work requires careful consideration of the potential risks and benefits, and journalists must adhere to legal and ethical standards in their reporting.

//Conclusion

Investigative journalism is an indispensable pillar of democracy, essential for ensuring transparency, accountability, and justice. By uncovering hidden truths and exposing wrongdoing, investigative journalists play a crucial role in defending democratic values and empowering citizens with the information they need to hold those in power accountable.

The principles and functions of investigative journalism underscore its significance in society. It is a profession that demands independence, accuracy, persistence, and courage. As such, the work of investigative journalists

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is not just about reporting the news but about shaping the very fabric of democratic societies. The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) embodies.

//International Consortium of Investigative Journalists

Mission: To show people how the world really works through stories that rock the world; forcing positive change.

Vision: To expose wrongdoing so the world can make it right.

/Introduction:

The international consortium of investigative journalists is a global network of over 290 journalists in 105 countries who solely work to forefront the issues of the real world. ICIJ works in collaboration with media organizations around the globe aiming to expose the bitter and ugly truths of the world.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists was founded in 1997 by American journalist Charles 'Chuck' Lewis. It was launched as a project of the Center for Public Integrity. Under the stewardship, it highlighted the affairs that transcended national boundaries, such as corruption, transnational crimes, and the global offshore economy. To broaden its reach and influence, ICIJ spun off from the Center and became a fully independent news organization in early 2017. The U.S. tax officials granted ICIJ charitable status under section 501(c)(3) in July 2017.

In keeping with its collaborative work style, ICIJ is governed by three committees:

- The ICIJ Network Committee, which represents members of the organization's global network
- The traditional board of directors, which plays a fiduciary role
- And a journalism advisory committee composed of experienced investigative reporters

ICIJ has redefined what investigative journalism looks like in the 21st century. It has regularly carried out journalism partnerships that are so expansive, so ambitious, and so visionary that they stand apart from all before them in history.

By convincing both the largest and smallest media outlets worldwide to collaborate in order to carry out the watchdog journalism that they previously did independently, ICIJ's strategy marks a new chapter in the history of journalism. In addition to small, regional nonprofit journalism organizations in Europe, North America, Africa, Asia, and Latin America, ICIJ has worked with over 140 newspapers, television and radio stations, and online media outlets. These partners include The Washington Post, Le Monde, the BBC, El Pais, The Guardian, the Asahi Shimbun, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., and the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

In the worldwide struggle against injustice, corruption, and inequality, ICIJ has proven its worth. Again and again, their groundbreaking research has shown faulty institutions, the exploitation of weaker populations, and provoking the poised into **petty power struggles**

widespread corruption. Working together, their global reporting teams have repeatedly exposed wrongdoing, giving the world a chance to make it right.

//A few noteworthy investigations and their impacts

/Luxembourg Leaks (2014)

Pepsi, Abbott Laboratories, IKEA, AIG, Coach, Deutsche Bank, and around 340 other businesses obtained secret agreements from Luxembourg that enabled many of them to significantly reduce their worldwide tax obligations. From 2002 to 2010, PricewaterhouseCoopers assisted multinational companies in obtaining at least 548 tax rulings in Luxembourg. These concealed legal transactions include intricate financial arrangements intended to result in significant tax savings. The decisions offer formal guarantees that tax-saving strategies of businesses would be well-received by Luxembourg authorities.

Businesses have avoided paying billions of dollars in taxes by passing via Luxembourg with hundreds of billions of dollars. Certain businesses have benefited from effective tax rates of under 1% on the profits they have transferred to Luxembourg.

By using so-called hybrid loans, many of the tax arrangements took advantage of international tax mismatches that let businesses avoid paying taxes in Luxembourg and other countries.

Many times, Luxembourg subsidiaries managing hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of business have minimal presence and engagement in the country. One popular address — 5, rue Guillaume Kroll — is home to more than 1,600 companies. The Walt Disney Company, a household name in American entertainment, 33 other businesses, and the politically charged Koch Industries are among the entities seeking tax rulings from Luxembourg, according to a different collection of documents that ICIJ reported on December 9. The additional data disclosed that, in addition to PwC, Ernst & Young, Deloitte, and KPMG, among other accounting companies, mediated tax rulings.

/Panama Papers (2016)

A giant leak of more than 11.5 million financial and legal records exposed a system that enabled crime, corruption and wrongdoing, hidden by secretive offshore companies. It triggered investigations, led to resignations, spurred legal reforms and reshaped perceptions of financial transparency and accountability.

Files revealed the offshore holdings of 140 politicians and public officials from around the world. Current and former world leaders in the data include the prime minister of Iceland, the president of Ukraine, and the king of Saudi Arabia. More than 214,000 offshore entities appear in the leak, connected to people in more than 200 countries and territories. Major banks have driven the creation of hard-to-trace companies in offshore havens.

The US Department of Justice has filed the first-ever criminal charges against four men, including two employees of Mossack Fonseca, for tax and money-laundering offenses. Over 170 German police officers and officials raided Deutsche Bank's Frankfurt headquarters in a Panama Papers-related money laundering

investigation, focusing on whether the bank helped clients secure offshore accounts. Pakistan's anti-corruption court sentenced former prime minister Nawaz Sharif to seven years in prison on corruption charges, a second conviction since the Panama Papers investigation revealed his family's wealth. The offshore law firm Mossack Fonseca shut down; its 11.5 million leaked files became the basis of the Panama Papers inquiry. The Panama Papers investigation has resulted in the recovery of nearly \$700 million in fines and unpaid taxes for governments worldwide.

/Paradise Papers (2017)

It disclosed the offshore holdings and activities of over 120 politicians and international figures, including Queen Elizabeth II, as well as 13 advisors, significant contributors, and members of US President Donald J. Trump's team. It also revealed the tax engineering practices of over a hundred large firms, such as Apple, Nike, and Allergan, the manufacturer of Botox.

In addition, revealed tax haven shopping sprees by multinational companies in Africa and Asia that use shell companies in Mauritius and Singapore to reduce taxes. Shined a light on secretive deals and hidden companies connected to Glencore, the world's largest commodity trader, and provided detailed accounts of the company's negotiations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for valuable mineral resources. The papers also provided details of how owners of jets and yachts, including royalty and sports stars, used Isle of Man tax-avoidance structures.

Many nations have opened tax investigations, including South Korea, the Netherlands, India, Argentina, the European Union, Vietnam, Lithuania, Indonesia, Ireland, Greece, New Zealand, Australia, Nigeria, and Pakistan. The National Tax Service of South Korea is looking into 37 individuals and businesses. Four thousand agreements between corporations and the national tax office are being examined in the Netherlands. Prosecutors in Argentina have issued arrest warrants for individuals who are alleged to have laundered money through offshore operations. In reaction to disclosures on his offshore interests in the Paradise Papers, the chairman of the biggest business lobby in Sweden resigned.

Implant Files (2018)

Medical devices improve and save lives, but governments allowed products on the market with little or no human testing that went on to cause great harm. Some nations have removed devices off the market due to safety concerns, yet some still sell them. Patients are vulnerable because the device business and the authorities in charge of it find it difficult to promptly identify dangerous implants after they are made available. In reports to U.S. regulators over the past ten years, manufacturers, physicians, and others may have linked medical equipment to approximately 1.7 million injuries and nearly 83,000 deaths.

Recent years have seen a number of high-profile product-related scandals involving women, such as breast implants, vaginal mesh, and contraceptive coils.

The day after ICIJ published Implant Files, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced their plans for significant modernization in clearing medical devices, strengthening surgical mesh oversight, increasing breast implant safety, and aiming to be the first global regulatory agency to identify harmful devices. French health authorities ordered a recall of Allergan's textured breast implants due to the Implant Files sparking reform pledges overseas. Canada's health authorities have announced an action plan to enhance medical provoking the poised into **petty power struggles**

device oversight, addressing serious issues faced by Canadians with implanted medical devices and promoting transparency. Authorities charged with reforming medical device supervision have also committed to major changes in Denmark, Spain, Italy, and India.

/FinCen Files (2020)

Major banks' global facilitation of money laundering and criminal financial transactions was made evident by the FinCEN Files. The disclosures set off legal action and regulatory investigation that is still transforming international financial markets. Global banks moved more than \$2 trillion between 1999 and 2017 in payments they believed were suspicious, and flagged bank clients in more than 170 countries who were identified as being involved in potentially illicit transactions. The figures include \$514 billion at JPMorgan Chase and \$1.3 trillion at Deutsche Bank. The FinCEN Files show that five global banks — JPMorgan Chase, HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank, Deutsche Bank and Bank of New York Mellon — moved illicit cash for shadowy characters and criminal networks even after U.S. authorities fined these financial institutions for earlier failures to stem flows of dirty money. In half of the FinCEN Files reports, banks didn't have information about one or more entities behind the transactions. Years after concerns first emerged, banks continued to move money for fraudsters, drug dealers and allegedly corrupt officials, leading to cases of real harm.

During a discussion on the FinCEN Files, European lawmakers demanded more unified rules and stricter oversight. Four local banks in Thailand were the subject of an investigation by regulators after their transactions were noted in the FinCEN Files analysis. In response to the FinCEN Files, British lawmakers opened a formal investigation into what they described as "deeply troubling" issues. The FinCEN Files pushed anti-money-laundering reforms, passing Congress with bipartisan support. The law requires US companies to report true owners, eliminating anonymous shell companies. Niger activists filed a lawsuit for a \$120 million missing audit. Belgian banks proposed the creation of an inter-bank platform to exchange information about suspicious transactions.

/Luanda leaks (2020)

Angola, which is rich in diamonds and oil, is among the poorest nations on Earth, but Isabel dos Santos became the richest woman in Africa after two decades of fraudulent business dealings. Isabel dos Santos and her spouse Sindika Dokolo are connected to a network of over 400 businesses and subsidiaries across 41 nations, 94 of which are located in secretive jurisdictions like Malta, Mauritius, and Hong Kong. The enterprises of dos Santos received contracts and loans totaling hundreds of millions of dollars. A group of Western business advisors transferred funds, formed businesses, examined financial records, offered tax evasion advice, and ignored warning signs that, according to experts, should have aroused significant concerns. Between 2010 and 2017, the combined revenue of PwC and Boston Consulting Group from services rendered to dos Santos and Dokolo enterprises exceeded \$5.6 million.

An international arrest warrant issued by Interpol instructs law enforcement agencies across the globe to track and subsequently arrest dos Santos. Angola, Portugal, and the United States initiated asset freezes and provoking the poised into **petty power struggles**

launched inquiries. Authorities in Portugal also raided the offices of a few of her most important advisors. The Portuguese telecom provider Sonae declared the dissolution of its partnership with dos Santos. The Angolan mobile phone behemoth Unitel filed a lawsuit against dos Santos in a London court, requesting immediate repayment of almost \$430 million.

/Pandora Papers (2021)

Over 300 current and past public officials and politicians worldwide, as well as 35 current and previous world leaders, have been found to have offshore dealings, according to an investigation conducted by over 600 journalists from 150 news organizations. Decades of laws, investigations, and international agreements designed to stop money laundering and tax cheating haven't stopped the offshore system from flourishing. Even though the United States holds smaller countries accountable for facilitating tax evasion and the movement of illicit funds, South Dakota and over a dozen other U.S. states have emerged as industry leaders in the sale of financial secrecy. The owners of offshore businesses, hidden bank accounts, private planes, yachts, mansions, and works of art by Picasso, Banksy, and other masters are revealed by the Pandora Papers. There are 2.94 gigabytes of sensitive data from 14 offshore service providers in the largest leak in ICIJ history.

A number of heads of state and other politicians implicated in the investigation faced repercussions. For example, the Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis, the Chilean President Sebastian Piñera and Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso. Numerous formal investigations were initiated by authorities, including those in France, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Cyprus, where the national bar association inquired two law firms. The revelations were used by governments all across the world to take property and impose sanctions on individuals connected to authoritarian regimes, including several wealthy Haitian tycoons, prominent Russian oligarchs, and Horacio Cartes, the former president of Paraguay.

Deforestation Inc. (2023)

Products connected to deforestation, logging in areas of conflict, and other detrimental activities are often validated by environmental reviews and certification programs designed to promote responsible forestry and other social aims globally. Over 340 forest product firms were accused of environmental crimes or other malfeasance by local communities, advocates, and government agencies after dozens of environmental auditors certified their operations and products as "sustainable" during the past 20 years. The failure of Western nations to halt the trade in wood that has been cut from war areas like Myanmar allows authoritarian regimes to finance their bloody reign. Nevertheless, certification organizations enable businesses at the core of this industry to possess sustainability certifications, deceiving consumers about the provenance of a product.

The U.S. Department of Justice announced a task force in April to combat illegally sourced timber trafficking, following ICIJ's Deforestation Inc. investigation. India has introduced a certification program for companies to validate environmentally sound forest management practices, while the UK has banned large companies from using deforested commodities. Canada's Standing Committee on Natural Resources has ordered an

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investigation into Canadian forestry giant Paper Excellence, linked to a conglomerate involved in deforestation, human rights violations, and Indigenous community disputes. In 2023, Myanmar's timber imports to Europe decreased by 80% due to a broader crackdown involving customs officials' raids and coordinated inspections across multiple countries. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has issued guidelines to assist companies in providing precise information to consumers about their environmental impact.

Collaborative Journalism Europe in a Global Context (CJEGC):

In the last ten years, reporters from all around Europe and the world have collaborated to create a single, massive newsroom through the creation of international collaborative journalism by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and its media partners. Accurate, truthful, and in-depth reporting on matters of national importance is made possible by collaborative investigative journalism. Additionally, it assists journalists in overcoming obstacles they would typically encounter on their own, such as censorship, dependence on funding, legal and safety risks, and limited access to material.

The foundation of the Collaborative Journalism Europe in a Global Context project is the idea that collaborative investigative reporting may make greater use of technology. Cutting-edge digital technologies for professional cooperation and data use will be promoted by CJEGC.

With partners from the Baltic region, South-East Europe, and the Western Balkans, the ICIJ is leading the CJEGC, which covers many viewpoints and sparsely cooperating European regions. ICIJ and its partners will work together to create a peer-to-peer trust network.

CJEGC receives co-funding from the European Union (EU). However, the views and opinions expressed are solely those of the author or authors; they may not represent Creative Europe or the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

ICIJ's future goals:

1. Be recognized as the world's most impactful producer of collaborative cross-border investigative stories.

The goal is to strengthen ICIJ's standing as the global pioneer in investigative journalism that spans borders. ICIJ will not stop shedding light on serious global challenges and exposing realities that require the attention of everyone in order to encourage action, hold people accountable, and help find solutions.

2. Attract and retain highly qualified staff across all departments.

ICIJ's outstanding team plays a crucial role in their success. A diverse, competent, and multinational workforce is ensured by investing in attracting and keeping top personnel, which promotes innovation and makes it possible for them to continuously produce ground-breaking investigative journalism with unshakable dedication and experience.

3. Strategically expand the network established and increase the members' perks.

For the purpose of promoting multiple viewpoints, gaining access to local knowledge on international issues, and crafting the narratives that give their stories life, their member journalists and their media partners are indispensable. Making the most of the community they have established will enable them to generate more meaningful journalism.

4. Obtain long-term, stable funding.

Remaining financially stable is essential for leaving a lasting impression. ICIJ is unwavering in its commitment to thoroughly evaluate any financial contributions to make sure it has no influence on its activities. Maintaining an unbiased and impartial editorial posture is of the utmost importance, as is upholding the integrity and independence of the work.

//Conclusion:

ICIJ encourages a transparent and accountable culture throughout the globe by providing people with the facts and creating an open channel of communication. This will empower citizens to strengthen democratic institutions and democracy itself. These initiatives are more important now than ever in an era of populism, fake news, and the emergence of radical politics. The guiding principles are that citizens should have access to independent fact-checking sources, and that this is not only essential for democracy but is also a fundamental human right. Investigative journalism has never been more crucial or difficult as it is right now. The greatest threats to our societies, and to each and every one of us, have expanded globally, outpacing the capabilities of conventional newsrooms. An onslaught of false information that misleads, alienates, and divides people must be fought off by critical public interest reporting. In order to counter these dynamics, ICIJ has organized the most extensive cross-border reporting projects in history, persuading journalists worldwide to put aside long-standing grudges in order to expose corruption, abuses of authority, and grave injustices done to the most vulnerable people on the planet.

ICIJ's history of publishing ground-breaking stories that cause global unrest has established ICIJ as a vital news source and a leader in the fight for truth on a worldwide scale.



//INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES:

/Introduction:

Intelligence agencies play a critical role in national security, conducting a range of activities including information gathering, analysis, covert operations, and counterintelligence. These agencies operate within the frameworks established by national laws and international agreements to protect the interests and security of their respective countries. This comprehensive overview examines the history, functions, structures, and ethical challenges faced by intelligence agencies worldwide.

/Historical Context:

The history of intelligence agencies is as old as organized societies themselves, with early forms of espionage and intelligence gathering evident in ancient civilizations such as Egypt, China, Greece, and Rome. However, the modern concept of intelligence agencies developed primarily in the 20th century.

1. **Pre-20th Century:** Ancient and medieval states employed spies and scouts to gather military and political intelligence. Notable examples include the use of spies by the Mongol Empire and the secret service under Cardinal Richelieu in 17th century France.
2. **World War I and II:** The two World Wars significantly shaped the development of modern intelligence agencies. World War I saw the establishment of organizations such as the British MI6 (Secret Intelligence Service) and the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence. World War II further expanded the role of intelligence with the formation of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in the United States, which later evolved into the CIA.
3. **Cold War Era:** The Cold War period (1947-1991) marked a significant expansion in the scope and complexity of intelligence operations. The rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union led to the establishment of numerous intelligence agencies and the development of sophisticated espionage techniques. Key agencies included the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) and NSA (National Security Agency) in the United States, the KGB in the Soviet Union, and MI6 in the United Kingdom.
4. **Post-Cold War and Modern Era:** After the Cold War, intelligence agencies adapted to new challenges such as global terrorism, cyber threats, and transnational organized crime. The 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001 led to significant restructuring and enhancement of intelligence capabilities, particularly in the United States with the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the expansion of the NSA's surveillance programs.

/Major Intelligence Agencies:

Several intelligence agencies around the world are renowned for their capabilities and influence:

1. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) - United States:

o The CIA is responsible for foreign intelligence and covert operations. It operates under the authority of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI).

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2. Federal Security Service (FSB) – Russia:

o The FSB, successor to the KGB, handles domestic security, counterintelligence, and counterterrorism within Russia.

3. Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) – United Kingdom:

o MI6 is the UK's foreign intelligence service, focusing on gathering foreign intelligence and conducting covert operations.

4. Mossad – Israel:

o Mossad is Israel's national intelligence agency, known for its effectiveness in counterterrorism and intelligence operations.

5. Ministry of State Security (MSS) – China:

o The MSS is responsible for intelligence gathering, counterintelligence, and security operations in China and abroad.

6. Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) – India:

o RAW handles foreign intelligence and covert operations for India, with a focus on neighboring countries and regional stability.

/Ethical Challenges and Controversies:

Intelligence agencies operate in a domain where ethical considerations often conflict with operational imperatives. Several key ethical challenges and controversies include:

1. Surveillance and Privacy:

o The balance between national security and individual privacy is a persistent ethical dilemma. Mass surveillance programs, such as those revealed by Edward Snowden, have sparked debates about the extent to which governments should monitor their citizens.

2. Covert Operations and Political Interference:

o Covert operations, including assassinations, regime changes, and interference in foreign elections, raise significant ethical and legal concerns. Such actions can undermine international law and diplomatic relations.

3. Use of Torture and Enhanced Interrogation Techniques:

o The use of torture and other harsh interrogation methods by intelligence agencies, such as those employed during the War on Terror, has been widely condemned as unethical and inhumane.

4. Accountability and Oversight:

o Ensuring accountability and oversight of intelligence agencies is crucial to prevent abuses of power. However, the secretive nature of these agencies often makes it challenging to implement effective oversight mechanisms.

5. Whistleblowing and Leaks:

o Whistleblowers who expose wrongdoing within intelligence agencies face significant risks, including legal action and retaliation. The ethical implications of such disclosures are complex, balancing the public's right to know with national security considerations.

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//Conclusion:

Intelligence agencies play an indispensable role in safeguarding national security, conducting operations that range from espionage to counterterrorism. While their activities are crucial for protecting national interests, they also raise significant ethical and legal questions. Balancing the need for secrecy and operational effectiveness with transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights remains a critical challenge. As the global security landscape continues to evolve, intelligence agencies must adapt to new threats while adhering to ethical standards that uphold the principles of democracy and the rule of law.



{Agenda}



=classified

//Latin American Mafia Groups

/What are mafia groups?

A Mafia is a secretive, organized crime organization. When one hears the word "mafia," they typically picture the Italian-American Mafia. Notable characteristics of mafias include their emphasis on loyalty, especially to those who are part of the crime family, and secrecy, to avoid prosecution for their money-making activities. Mafias are well-known for their involvement in criminal activities such as selling alcohol (during Prohibition) along with other illicit drugs and goods and participating in illegal gambling, prostitution, and theft. The Italian-American Mafia, called La Cosa Nostra (English: "our thing"), is arguably the most famous example of organized crime in the United States and abroad. The Italian-American Mafia has been so influential in some regions that whole industries were dependent upon mafia ties. Regional mafias influenced politics as well, controlling social, political, and economic life in neighborhoods and sometimes throughout whole cities. Mafia groups are organized criminal organizations that engage in illegal activities such as drug trafficking, extortion, money laundering, and more. They typically operate in hierarchical structures with clear divisions of labor and territories. These groups often use violence and corruption to achieve their objectives and maintain control.

Mafia groups are among the most enduring and notorious criminal organizations in the world. Originating in Italy and later spreading globally, these groups have evolved into sophisticated entities involved in various illegal activities such as drug trafficking, extortion, money laundering, and more. This essay delves into the multifaceted history and evolution of mafia groups, examining both their Italian origins and the development of similar organizations in Latin America.

/Origin Of Mafia Groups:

Mafia, hierarchically structured society of criminals of primarily Italian or Sicilian birth or extraction. The term applies to the traditional criminal organization in Sicily and also to a criminal organization in the United States. Most scholars agree that the Mafia emerged in Sicily in the 19th century during Italy's unification, but others suggest the organization arose during the late Middle Ages. In the latter interpretation, the Mafia possibly began as a secret organization dedicated to overthrowing the rule of the various foreign conquerors of the island—e.g., Saracens, Normans, and Spaniards. The Mafia owed its origins to and drew its members from the many small private armies, or *mafie*, that were hired by absentee landlords to protect their landed estates from bandits in the lawless conditions that prevailed over much of Sicily through the centuries. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the energetic ruffians in these private armies organized themselves and grew so powerful that they turned against the landowners and became the sole law on many of the estates, extorting money from the landowners in return for protecting the latter's crops. The Mafia survived and outlasted Sicily's successive foreign governments because the latter were often so despotic that they alienated the island's inhabitants and made tolerable the Mafia's peculiar system of private justice, which was regulated by a complicated moral code. This code was based on *omertà*—i.e., the obligation never, under any circumstances, to apply for justice to the legal authorities and never to assist in any way in the detection of crimes committed against oneself or others. The right to avenge wrongs was reserved for the victims and their families, and to provoking the poised into **petty power struggles**

break the code of silence was to incur reprisals from the Mafia. By about 1900 the various Mafia “families” and groups of families based in the villages of western Sicily had joined together in a loose confederation, and they controlled most of the economic activities in their respective localities.

In the early 1920s Benito Mussolini’s Fascist regime came close to eliminating the Mafia by arresting and trying thousands of suspected mafiosi and sentencing them to long jail terms. Following World War II, the American occupation authorities released many of the mafiosi from prison, and these men proceeded to revive the organization. The Mafia’s power remained somewhat weakened in the rural areas of central and western Sicily, however, and its activities henceforth were directed more to urban Palermo—and to industry, business, and construction, as well as the traditional extortion and smuggling. During the late 1970s the Mafia in Palermo became deeply involved in the refining and transshipment of heroin bound for the United States. The enormous profits sparked fierce competition between various clans within the Mafia, and the resulting spate of murders led to renewed governmental efforts to convict and imprison the Mafia’s leadership. In a 1987 “maxi-trial” 338 Sicilian mafiosi were convicted on a variety of charges.

There were, in the groups that emigrated from Sicily and Italy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, individuals who had been part of the Mafia and who, in their new countries (particularly the United States and parts of South America), set about reproducing the criminal patterns that they had left in Europe. By the early 1930s the organized Italian criminals in the United States had wrested control of various illegal activities from rival Irish, Jewish, and other gangs, and they proceeded, after a bloody nationwide conflict in 1930–31, to organize themselves into a loose alliance with a clearly defined higher leadership. After the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, the American Mafia abandoned its bootlegging operations and settled into gambling, labour racketeering, loan-sharking, narcotics distribution, and prostitution rings. It grew to be the largest and most powerful of the U.S. syndicated-crime organizations, and it reinvested the profits accruing from crime in the ownership of such legitimate businesses as hotels, restaurants, and entertainment ventures.

Investigations conducted by U.S. government agencies in the 1950s and ’60s revealed that the structure of the American Mafia was similar to that of its Sicilian prototype. (In the United States, the organization had adopted the name *Cosa Nostra* [Italian: “Our Affair”].) From the 1950s, Mafia operations were conducted by some 24 groups, or “families,” throughout the country. In most cities where syndicated crime operated, there was one family, but in New York City there were five: Gambino, Genovese, Lucchese, Colombo, and Bonanno. The heads of the most powerful families made up a commission whose main function was judicial. At the head of each family was a “boss,” or “don,” whose authority could be challenged only by the commission. Each don had an underboss, who functioned as a vice president or deputy director, and a consigliere, or counselor, who had considerable power and influence. Below the underboss were the caporegime, or lieutenants, who, acting as buffers between the lower echelon workers and the don himself, protected him from a too-direct association with the organization’s illicit operations. The lieutenants supervised squads of “soldiers,” who often had charge of one of the family’s legal operations (e.g., vending machines, food-products companies, or restaurants) or illegal operations involving prostitution, gambling, or narcotics.

By the late 20th century the Mafia’s role in U.S. organized crime seemed to be diminishing. Convictions of top officials, defections by members who became government witnesses, and murderous internal disputes thinned the ranks. In addition, the gradual breakup of insulated Italian-Sicilian communities and their assimilation into the larger American society effectively reduced the traditional breeding ground for prospective mafiosi. See also organized crime.

//The Extent of Omertà, Code of Silence, and Mafia Structures in Latin America:

/Introduction:

Omertà, or the code of silence, is a cornerstone of mafia culture, emphasizing silence and secrecy to protect the organization and its members from law enforcement and outside threats. In Latin America, where mafia structures have become deeply entrenched, this code plays a critical role in maintaining the power and influence of these groups. Understanding Omertà and the organizational structures of Latin American mafias is essential for comprehending their resilience and the challenges they pose to state authorities. In Latin America, where mafia groups have become deeply embedded in society, Omertà and the sophisticated organizational structures of these groups pose significant challenges to law enforcement and governance. This comprehensive examination will explore the origins, manifestations, and impacts of Omertà and mafia structures in Latin America, as well as the efforts to combat them.

/Omertà: The Code of Silence:

Omertà is a cultural and behavioral norm that discourages individuals from cooperating with authorities or outsiders about the activities of criminal organizations. This code is enforced through a combination of loyalty, fear, and the threat of violence. In the context of Latin American mafias, Omertà manifests in various ways:

- 1. Community Control:** In regions controlled by mafia groups, local communities are often coerced into silence. Residents fear retribution if they report criminal activities or cooperate with law enforcement. This fear is reinforced by high-profile acts of violence against those who break the code.
- 2. Internal Discipline:** Within the organizations, members are bound by strict loyalty. Betrayal or cooperation with authorities is met with severe punishment, often death. This internal discipline ensures that members adhere to the code of silence.
- 3. Cultural Reinforcement:** Omertà is often ingrained in the local culture, particularly in areas with a long history of mafia presence. It becomes a norm, passed down through generations, making it difficult to break the cycle of silence.

//The Structures of Latin American Mafias:

The organizational structures of Latin American mafia groups vary, but they generally share some common characteristics that enable them to maintain control and execute their illicit activities effectively.

- 1. Hierarchical Structure:** Most mafia groups operate under a hierarchical structure, with a clear chain of command. At the top is the leader or "boss," who makes strategic decisions. Below the boss are various lieutenants and soldiers who oversee specific operations and territories. This structure ensures efficient decision-making and control.
- 2. Family-Based or Clan-Based Units:** Many Latin American mafia groups are organized around family or clan-based units. This model fosters strong loyalty and trust, as members are often related by blood or marriage. This family-centric approach helps maintain secrecy and reduces the risk of infiltration by law enforcement.
- 3. Territorial Control:** Mafia groups exert control over specific territories, which are critical to their operations. They establish a presence through violence, intimidation, and corruption, creating safe havens for their activities. Territorial control also allows them to monopolize local illegal markets, such as drug trafficking and extortion.
- 4. Diversification of Criminal Activities:** While drug trafficking is a major source of income, many mafia groups diversify their activities to include extortion, human trafficking, money laundering, and arms smuggling. This diversification makes them more resilient to law enforcement actions targeting specific activities.
- 5. Corruption and Political Influence:** To protect their operations and expand their influence, mafia groups often engage in corruption, bribing law enforcement officials, politicians, and judicial authorities. This corruption ensures impunity and allows them to operate with relative freedom. In some cases, they infiltrate political systems directly, placing their members in positions of power.

//Impacts of Omertà and Mafia Structures:

The presence of Omertà and sophisticated mafia structures has far-reaching impacts on Latin American societies, affecting economic, social, and political aspects.

1. Economic Impact: The economic impact of mafia groups in Latin America is profound. On one hand, these organizations generate immense revenue from their illegal activities, which can sometimes exceed the GDP of small countries. This influx of money can lead to the creation of parallel economies where illicit funds are laundered through legitimate businesses, distorting local economies. On the other hand, the pervasive influence of mafia groups deters legitimate economic development. Businesses are often forced to pay protection money, and the constant threat of violence and extortion discourages investment. The economic toll

includes not only direct costs related to criminal activity but also indirect costs such as increased security expenditures and the loss of human capital due to migration and violence.

2. Social Impact: The social fabric of communities across Latin America is significantly affected by the presence of mafia groups. High levels of violence, including murders, kidnappings, and disappearances, create an environment of fear and insecurity. The recruitment of young people into criminal organizations, often through coercion or economic necessity, perpetuates cycles of violence and undermines social cohesion. Furthermore, the corruption and impunity associated with these groups erode public trust in state institutions and the rule of law. Social services, such as education and healthcare, suffer as resources are diverted or diminished in conflict zones controlled by criminal organizations.

3. Political Impact: Mafia groups in Latin America have a notable impact on political systems. Through corruption, bribery, and intimidation, they infiltrate various levels of government, from local municipalities to national institutions. This corruption undermines democratic processes and weakens governance, making it challenging to implement effective public policies. The collusion between political elites and criminal organizations often results in policies that favor the interests of these groups over the needs of the general population. Additionally, electoral processes can be manipulated, with mafia groups influencing the outcomes through violence or financial support to compliant candidates.

/Case Studies of Omertà and Mafia Structures:

Mexican Cartels:

Mexican cartels, such as the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), exemplify the use of Omertà and complex organizational structures. These cartels maintain strict codes of silence among their members and leverage familial ties to strengthen loyalty. Their hierarchical structures enable them to coordinate large-scale drug trafficking operations while controlling vast territories through violence and corruption.

Colombian Cartels:

In Colombia, the legacy of the Medellín and Cali cartels demonstrates the importance of Omertà in maintaining the cohesion and secrecy of criminal organizations. Despite the fall of these major cartels, smaller groups have continued to operate using similar principles. The rise of paramilitary groups involved in drug trafficking further illustrates the enduring influence of mafia-like structures.

Brazilian Gangs:

In Brazil, powerful gangs such as the Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) and Comando Vermelho (CV) have adopted mafia-like structures and codes of silence. These organizations control drug trafficking and other criminal activities within and beyond prison walls. Their ability to maintain order and loyalty among members is crucial to their dominance in urban areas and favelas.

//Challenges to Breaking Omertà and Dismantling Mafia Structures:

1. **Fear and Intimidation:** The pervasive fear of retaliation makes it difficult for individuals to break Omertà. Witnesses and informants often require significant protection and incentives to cooperate with authorities.
2. **Cultural Entrenchment:** In regions where mafia presence has been longstanding, Omertà becomes deeply embedded in the local culture, complicating efforts to encourage cooperation with law enforcement.
3. **Corruption:** Widespread corruption within law enforcement and political systems undermines efforts to combat mafia groups. Corrupt officials can hinder investigations, leak information, and protect criminal activities.
4. **Economic Dependency:** In some areas, local economies are heavily reliant on the illicit activities of mafia groups. This economic dependency makes it challenging for communities to support anti-mafia efforts without viable alternative livelihoods.
5. **Weak State Institutions:** Weak judicial and law enforcement institutions struggle to effectively combat well-organized and resourceful mafia groups. Strengthening these institutions is essential for long-term success.

The persistence of Omertà and the robust structures of mafia groups in Latin America present significant challenges to governance, security, and social stability. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach that combines law enforcement, community engagement, economic development, and institutional reform. Breaking the code of silence and dismantling the complex organizational structures of these groups is critical for fostering safer and more resilient communities in the region.

Activities and Enterprises

//Italian Mafia groups engage in a range of illicit activities:

- **Extortion:** Forcing businesses and individuals to pay protection money (pizzo) in exchange for safety from violence and sabotage.
- **Drug Trafficking:** Importing and distributing narcotics, particularly heroin and cocaine, on a global scale.
- **Money Laundering:** Concealing the origins of illegally obtained funds through legitimate businesses and financial transactions.
- **Political Corruption:** Infiltrating political institutions to gain influence and protection from law enforcement.

//Case Studies of Latin American Mafia Groups:

/Venezuela:

Ana María Sanjuán of the Universidad Central de Venezuela highlighted three trends contributing to increased levels of insecurity in Venezuela: the rise in homicide rates in Caracas and the underlying causes; the changing roles of organized syndicates operating in Caracas; and the negative statistics as a result of recent organized crime trends in Venezuela. Emphasizing Venezuela's security problem, Sanjuán indicated that while reported crime figures have remained mostly consistent over the past two decades, the homicide rate for Venezuela has quadrupled since 1999, with the homicide rate in Caracas triple the national average.

Criminal organizations, generally small in size, with limited operational capacity, and lacking organization, are becoming increasingly more violent. Sanjuán stated that while figures for drug trafficking and illegal arms have decreased steadily since 1994, less complex operations, such as kidnapping, have increased. She also emphasized the rising level of human rights violations committed by state security officials. Although police reform was initiated in 2006, very little legislation has been passed and implemented. Given this failure and rampant police abuse, individuals and companies are turning more towards private security personnel. In contrast to the 190,219 registered police, there are more than 700,000 registered private security forces, a ratio which poses a viable threat to state control over security. This deterioration of public security and involvement of public security officials in illegitimate actions poses a serious threat to Venezuelan citizens.

/Argentina:

Marcelo Saín, former chief of the National Airport Police for Argentina, described a different picture of how common and organized crime operate in Buenos Aires. Common crime in the larger metropolitan area has increased over the past 20 years, peaking in 2002 following the previous year's economic meltdown. In both absolute and relative numbers, criminal acts against property and persons, including homicide, reached their highest levels during this time, but have since fallen, corresponding with improvements in national economic and social indicators. Saín explained that based on data from victimization surveys, the majority of murders committed during the peak years were not isolated or random acts but rather were connected to armed robberies and auto thefts.

Saín identified three issues currently impacting the public perception of crime in Buenos Aires. First, upper and middle class populations are increasingly the victims of armed robbery, extortion, kidnapping, and assaults. Second, the increased and at times sensationalized media coverage of criminal activity exacerbates public fear. And third, the increased role of youth in criminal behavior is affecting the dynamic of crime in Buenos Aires. Saín concluded that the cooperation between common crime and organized crime is at best at a very modest, low level. In contrast to common crime, organized crime is run as an economic enterprise; the internal structure of a criminal organization facilitates the provision of low cost or absent products as well as satiating the demand for illegal products for a specific clientele. These organizations enjoy a high degree of

police protection due to the kickbacks they pay to supplement the limited state funding and support for police forces.

/Mexico:

Eric Olson of the Woodrow Wilson Center's Mexico Institute argued that the link between common and organized crime in Mexico stems from the breakdown of state institutions and the blatant inability of the state to control crime. Historically, Mexico's homicide rate had steadily decreased beginning in 1936 and reached its lowest point in 2005, with less than ten murders per 100,000 people. However, since then Mexico has experienced a dramatic increase in homicides as a result of drug and organized crime-related killings. Ciudad Juárez, located on the border with the United States, recently surpassed Caracas, Venezuela, as the most murderous city in the world, with a homicide rate of 189/100,000. Olson emphasized that increases in common crime predate growth in organized crime by nearly two decades. The state's inability to regulate common crime during this period has provided a strong incentive for organized crime syndicates to enter into illicit markets and operate with little fear of punitive action.

Addressing Mexico's institutional shortfalls, Olson detailed the ineffectiveness of the judicial system and police force to properly investigate complaints and prosecute criminals. The high rates of victimization reported at the metropolitan and national levels differ significantly from the far higher unreported crime rates. Nationally, unreported crime rates are estimated at 78 percent, with Ciudad Juárez at 86 percent. When polled as to the principal reasons for these extremely high figures, respondents reported the lack of confidence in and legitimacy of authorities, adding that they viewed the reporting process as a waste of time.

//Conclusion;

Mafia groups in Latin America represent a formidable challenge that requires multifaceted and sustained efforts to overcome. Their deep entrenchment in economic, social, and political systems necessitates a holistic approach that goes beyond law enforcement. Addressing the root causes of organized crime, such as poverty, inequality, and weak state institutions, is crucial for long-term solutions. Moreover, regional and international collaboration plays a vital role in combating the transnational dimensions of these criminal organizations. Ultimately, the battle against mafia groups in Latin America is not only about dismantling criminal networks but also about building resilient communities and robust institutions that can withstand the pressures exerted by these powerful entities. Only through comprehensive, collaborative, and sustained efforts can Latin American societies hope to reduce the influence of mafia groups and foster a safer, more prosperous future.

//Documentation

//How to draft directives?

Directives, in a crisis, are how you take committee action, in place of long-form resolutions.

Main Components:

- Title
- Specific orders or actions that you would like to see undertaken – ensure these actions are well within the mandate and powers of your committee, and in case of an action that isn't within your committee's powers – recommend the action to the relevant committee concerned
- Signatures, with portfolios of all signatories

Sample Directive:

Committee Directive 1.0

Signed: The Russian Federation, The United States of America, The Republic of India

In reaction to the current hostage situation in Afghanistan, the UN Security Council determines to undertake the following measures:

1. Direct intelligence resources to find out the exact location of these hostages and how well protected this location is;
2. Prepare plans and intelligence for two Black Hawk helicopters and a team of Navy SEALs to rescue the hostages from this location by the order of this committee;
3. In cooperation with the neighbouring Pakistan Government, secure and set up a hospital in the Balochistan province to provide emergency medical aid to the hostages once rescued;
4. Issue an order to ensure the secrecy of this mission till its completion, in order to protect the security of the mission.

/How to write a press release ?

Press Releases are tools used by committees or individuals to inform the public about certain facts and developments on the issue at hand. It may be written as a result of a crisis or as an end document for a committee.

Main Components:

- Header stating that it is a Press Release
- Descriptive Headline
- Information that you want the public to have such as,
- Summary of discussion
- Major developments or outcomes of the session
- Unofficial voting information, if a vote was held
- Signature/s

Sample Press Release:

Press Release

Progress on Global Nuclear Security Has Slowed Significantly, according to 2020 NTI Index

Washington, DC: The 2021 NTI Nuclear Security Index finds that progress on protecting nuclear materials against theft and nuclear facilities against acts of sabotage has slowed significantly over the past two years, despite ongoing, major security gaps. An alarming development at a time of growing global disorder and disruption, the decline in the rate of improvement to national regulatory structures and the global nuclear security architecture reverses a trend of substantial improvements between 2012 and 2018.

The decline suggests that without the driving force of the Nuclear Security Summits, which ended in 2016, or similar high-level international events, attention to nuclear security has waned—and it has done so at a time when terrorist capabilities and growing cyber threats contribute to a more complicated and unpredictable environment. At the same time, geopolitical tensions and events such as the COVID-19 pandemic are undermining cooperation and exposing the limits of how countries cope with cross-border threats.

Countries have continued to take steps to strengthen nuclear security regulations and support global norms, but since 2018, the number of countries improving their scores in the NTI Index has declined across all three rankings.

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The number of countries with worsening scores has increased since 2018 in both the theft ranking for countries without materials and the sabotage ranking. Overall, the average amount that a score improved has declined in all three rankings compared with previous years, showing that even countries that are improving are taking fewer actions.

“Given the challenging backdrop for the sharp decline in progress, it is more important than ever to identify shortfalls and to call for governments, industry, and the international community to once again step up their efforts to prevent a catastrophic attack using stolen nuclear materials or an act of sabotage that could further shake global foundations,” said NTI Co-Chair and CEO Ernest J. Moniz.

The 2020 NTI Index recommends that to reverse the decline in nuclear security improvements, countries must strengthen and sustain political attention on enhancing nuclear security regulations and on building a more effective global nuclear security architecture.

The NTI Index includes nine additional high-level findings and recommendations.

1. No countries have eliminated their stocks of weapons-usable nuclear materials since 2016, and the number of countries with those materials has plateaued. Decreases in quantities of materials also are slowing. Countries with materials should revive efforts to reduce stocks of highly enriched uranium and plutonium and should focus on long-term, sustainable stewardship of materials.

2. Regulatory requirements for nuclear security are not comprehensive, with significant weaknesses in key areas such as insider threat prevention, security culture, and cybersecurity. Countries must strengthen these regimes; theft of nuclear materials or sabotage of a nuclear facility anywhere in the world would have significant implications for all countries, including potential public backlash against the use of peaceful nuclear technology, such as nuclear energy.

3. Countries do not have adequate measures in place to address the human factor of nuclear security. Countries must strengthen insider threat-prevention measures and security culture.

4. Cybersecurity regulations are slowly adapting to the growing cyber threat to nuclear facilities, but the adoption of these requirements continues to trail the urgency of the threat. Given the rapid evolution of cyber threats, countries must strengthen cybersecurity at nuclear facilities including through provoking the poised into **petty power struggles**

- (a) integrating physical protection and cybersecurity;
- (b) protecting critical digital assets, such as systems related to physical protection, control, accounting, and safety; and
- (c) building greater awareness of cyber threats among facility personnel.

5. Despite continued actions to strengthen the global nuclear security architecture, the rate of improvement has slowed and significant gaps in the architecture remain. Countries must work to strengthen and sustain political attention on nuclear security, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations should work to achieve universalisation of key legal instruments governing nuclear security, and countries should implement their treaty obligations and participate in voluntary initiatives, among other steps.

6. Countries without nuclear materials are not sufficiently engaged in efforts to bolster the global nuclear security architecture. To address regional disparities and conflicting priorities, the IAEA should work with countries to build a stronger, more inclusive concept of nuclear security stressing that nuclear security is critical to maintaining public support for peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

7. The IAEA still lacks the political and financial support it needs to fulfill its nuclear security mission. Countries should increase support for the IAEA by contributing to its Nuclear Security Fund and supporting and participating in IAEA activities, and the IAEA should work to build awareness of those activities and of how nuclear security helps countries benefit from peaceful nuclear use.

8. With the exception of publishing regulations, countries' actions to build confidence in nuclear security through information sharing and peer review remain limited. Countries should increase transparency and confidence by publishing annual nuclear security reports, by making public declarations about their progress on nuclear security, and by participating regularly in peer reviews, among other steps.

9. More countries are interested in acquiring nuclear technology for research or energy purposes, but nine countries planning new nuclear power programs have varying levels of preparedness to take on nuclear security responsibilities. To be responsible stewards, countries considering new nuclear energy capabilities should establish legal and regulatory frameworks that address insider threat prevention, cybersecurity, security culture, physical protection, control and accounting procedures, and response capabilities.

Signed: Ernest J. Moniz, Co-Chair and Chief Executive Officer, NTI; Sam provoking the poised into **petty power struggles**

/How to prepare a committee report ?

Most bodies report on their work. These reports include summaries of the work of the body for a given time period or session. It could be made to the public at large or for the parent organisation associated.

Main Components:

- Date of meeting
- Parties to the meeting
- Decisions adopted by the body or recommended to parent/other organisations

Sample Report:

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child Tenth Meeting

Membership

In accordance with Article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Tenth Meeting of States parties to the Convention was convened on 23 February 2021 at United Nations Headquarters. The following nine members were in participation: Ms. Ghalia Mohd Bin Hamad Al-Thani; Ms. Joyce Aluoch; Ms. Yanghee Lee; Mr. David Brent Parfitt; Mr. Awich Pollar; Mr. Kamal Siddiqui; Ms. Lucy Smith; Ms. Nevena Vuckovic-Sahovic; and Mr. Jean Zermatten.

Decisions & Recommendations Adopted

The Committee adopted the following decisions,

1. Relating to the rights of children without parental care, the Committee recommends that the Commission on Human Rights consider the establishment of a working group to develop guidelines for the protection and alternative care of children without parental care;
2. Relating to children in armed conflict, the Committee encourages State parties to further strengthen the protection of children from forced recruitment and involvement in armed conflict by criminalising such activities within their territories and to consider assuming extraterritorial jurisdiction when either the victim or perpetrator is a national of the State party;
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3. The Committee is of the view that practical measures should be taken at all levels to protect children's right to life, survival, and development by including,

- a) priority procedures for child victims of trafficking,
- b) the prompt appointment of guardians,
- c) the provision of information to children about the risks they may encounter, and
- d) the establishment of measures to provide follow-up to children particularly at risk

These measures should be regularly evaluated to ensure their effectiveness;

4. Relating to child migrants, the following measures can be adopted for their protection,

- a) prioritised identification of a child as separated or unaccompanied immediately upon arrival at ports of entry or as soon as their presence in the country becomes known to the authorities,
- b) such identification measures must include age assessment and should not only take into account the physical appearance of the individual, but also his or her psychological maturity,
- c) the assessment must be conducted in a scientific, safe, child- and gender-sensitive and fair manner, avoiding any risk of violation of the physical integrity of the child; giving due respect to human dignity; and,
- d) in the event of remaining uncertainty, should accord the individual the benefit of the doubt such that if there is a possibility that the individual is a child, she or he should be treated as such.

//Merci, beaucoup

I see both sides like Chanel.