

U.S. Efforts to Combat Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Networks

Migration, Trafficking, and Organized Crime in Central America, Mexico, and the United States

Wilson Center, March 1, 2017

Celina B. Realuyo

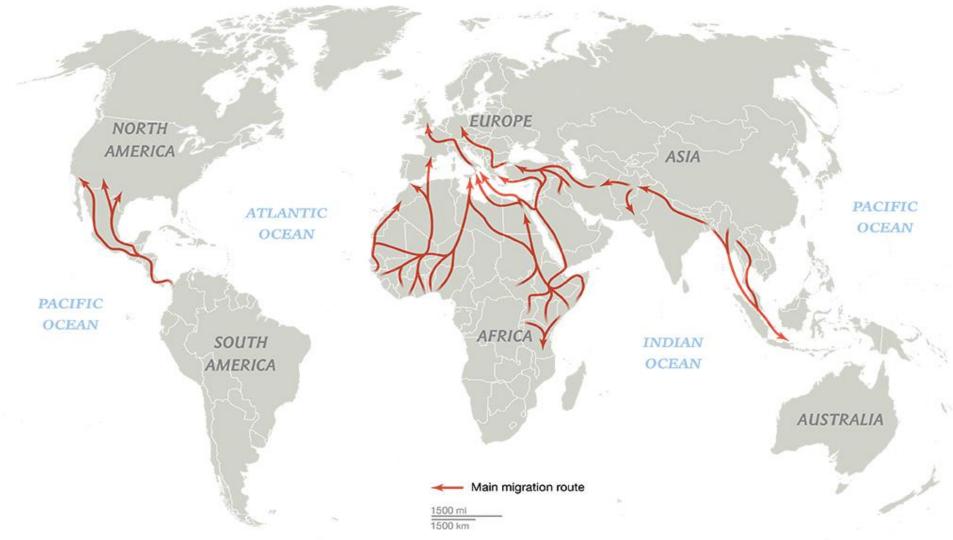
Professor of Practice William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies National Defense University professorcelina@gmail.com Twitter @CRealuyo



The Globalization of Illicit Networks



World's Most Congested Human Migration Routes



SOURCE: MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION



Human Migration Routes in the Americas



Human Smuggling vs. Human Trafficking

An immigration crime across borders Voluntary and involved in the act Pay a fee smuggle. The objective is to find economic opportunity or join family

A crime against a person and his/her human rights Not voluntary Involves fraud, coercion, and violence A persistent crime like slavery



Source: US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report

Migration Crisis at the U.S. Southern Border

CROSSING MEXICO NEW Most migrants from **MEXICO** Central America pass TEXAS El Paso through Mexico's coastal Ciudad states along the Gulf of Juarez Mexico to South Texas, th Laredo CHIHUAHUA shortest distance to the U.S. border. But some en up trying to cross through **MEXICO** the Chihuahua-New Mexic corridor. Pacific Ocean Caribbean Sea HONDURA! MAP NICAR/ AREA **GUATEMALA** 900 miles RUSS BALL/JOURNAL

U.S. Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime 2011

Priority Actions (56)

- 1. Start at Home: Take Shared Responsibility for Transnational Organized Crime
- 2. Enhance Intelligence and Information Sharing
- 3. Protect the Financial System and Strategic Markets Against Transnational Organized Crime
- 4. Strengthen Interdiction, Investigations, and Prosecutions
- 5. Disrupt Drug Trafficking and Its Facilitation of Other Transnational Threats
- 6. Build International Capacity, Cooperation, and Partnerships

STRATEGY TO COMBAT TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

L

Addressing Converging Threats to National Security

JULY 2011



Source: U.S. Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime 2011



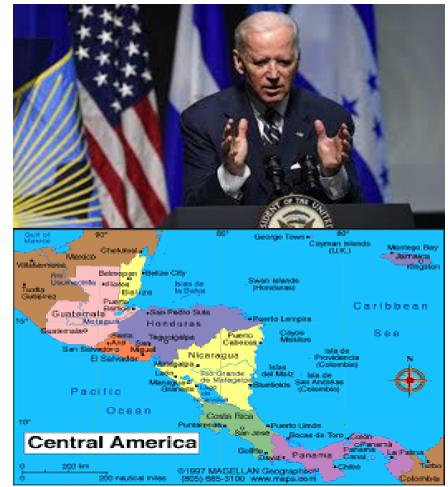


U.S. Strategy for Engagement in Central America 2015

President Obama requested an historic \$1 billion for Central America

These programs are intended to complement Central American government actions and the Alliance for Prosperity Strategy

U.S. funding will support three overarching lines of action:
1.Promoting prosperity and regional economic integration
2.Enhancing security
3.Promoting improved governance





Presidential Executive Orders on Border Security, Immigration Enforcement and Transnational Organized Crime

- Presidential Executive Order on Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements - January 25, 2017
- Presidential Executive Order on Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States - January 27, 2017
- Presidential Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking - February 9, 2017





Source: The White House





Presidential Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking 2/9/17

(a) strengthen enforcement of Federal law in order to thwart transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including criminal gangs, cartels, racketeering organizations, engaged in illicit activities that present a threat to public safety and national security and that are related to, for example:

•(i) the **<u>illegal smuggling and trafficking of humans</u>**, drugs or other substances, wildlife, and weapons;

•(ii) corruption, cybercrime, fraud, financial crimes, and intellectual-property theft; or

•(iii) the illegal concealment or transfer of proceeds derived from such illicit activities.

(c) maximize the extent to which all Federal agencies share information and coordinate with Federal law enforcement agencies, to identify, interdict, and dismantle transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations;

(d) <u>enhance cooperation with foreign counterparts</u> against transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including, where appropriate and permitted by law, through sharing of intelligence and law enforcement information and through increased security sector assistance to foreign partners by the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security;





Way Forward to Counter Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking in the Americas

Promote Demand Reduction through Education/Raising Awareness

Identify, Interdict and Dismantle Transnational Criminal Organizations

Secure Sufficient Human, Financial and Technological Resources

Promote Interagency/International Cooperation and Capacity Building



A Comprehensive "Whole of Society" Approach to National Security C3 THROUGH P3



