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

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, the National Defense University, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.
The Globalization of Illicit Networks

Flow of Transnational Organized Crime

Source: LA Times
Human Migration Routes in the Americas

Source: Celina B. Realuyo, WJPC
RealuyoC@ndu.edu

Source: MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
Human Smuggling vs. Human Trafficking

- An immigration crime across borders
  - Voluntary and involved in the act
  - Pay a fee to smugglers
  - 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

Most migrants from Central America pass through Mexico's coastal states along the Gulf of Mexico to South Texas, the shortest distance to the U.S. border. But some end up trying to cross through the Chihuahua-New Mexico corridor.
U.S. Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime 2011

Priority Actions (56)

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

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

Source: Celina B. Realuyo, WJPC
RealuyoC@ndu.edu
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

Source: Celina B. Realuyo, WJPC RealuyoC@ndu.edu
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 illegal smuggling and trafficking of humans, 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) enhance cooperation with foreign counterparts 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;

Source: The White House
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

Source: Celina B. Realuyo, WJPC
RealuyoC@ndu.edu
A Comprehensive “Whole of Society” Approach to National Security
C3 THROUGH P3

Private Sector
Public Sector
Civic Sector

COMMUNICATE, COOPERATE, COLLABORATE

Source: Celina B. Realuyo, WJPC
RealuyoC@ndu.edu