

Transnational crime

■ The spread of transnational crime is among the most obvious negative side effects of opening borders and markets in a globalizing world. Criminal syndicates have become more sophisticated. They are increasingly engaged in activities that directly threaten the safety of people, including the illicit trade in weapons and drugs, trafficking in women and children, and money laundering.

■ Canada has been at the forefront of countries addressing transnational organized crime since first putting the issue on the agenda of the G7 at the Halifax Summit in 1995. The G8's contribution continues through its senior experts group on transnational organized crime, the Lyon Group. Canada played a lead role in negotiating the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols on trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, and firearms. By sponsoring a technical meeting in Calgary to help finalize the Firearms Protocol, and by supporting regional conferences in South America and Africa to promote ratification of the Protocols on

trafficking and smuggling, Canada has encouraged the development and dissemination of these new norms. The trafficking of drugs is another pressing challenge related to organized crime. Under Canada's leadership, the countries of the Organization of American States (OAS) have developed a peer review evaluation mechanism to allow the 34 participating governments to assess each others' drug control efforts across the full spectrum of interventions, from demand reduction through health and social efforts, to supply restrictions through law enforcement efforts. With respect to money laundering, Canada works through the Financial Action Task Force, the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, the UN and other international organizations to develop and promote international responses to money laundering by international criminal groups.

■ Clearly, crime can no longer be addressed as a challenge exclusively for domestic policy. In some areas such as cyber-crime and corruption, international agreements are currently being negotiated. In many other areas, these agreements already exist and need only to be implemented. Canada is committed to the full implementation of these agreements, and to assisting other countries in making good on their obligations.

Combatting organized crime in the Americas

Canada's Human Security Program supported a November 2001 conference in Santiago, Chile bringing together experts from throughout the Americas to facilitate closer and more effective international cooperation in combatting organized crime. The meeting was sponsored by the Nathanson Centre for the Study of Organized Crime and Corruption at York University, in collaboration with the Government of Chile. Participants shared expertise and best practices for addressing transnational crime challenges including money laundering, drug trafficking, terrorism and corruption.

human security

Public safety



CP (Chuck Stoddy)

Illegal migrants wait on the dock at Gold River, British Columbia. (1999)