

# SAIMUN 2017 Research Report

**Committee:** General Assembly I

**Issue:** International cooperation to stop the proceeds of drug trafficking being used to finance illegal organisations

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## 1. Description of Issue

Drug trafficking is a global illegal trade involving the manufacture, distribution, cultivation and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. UNODC (United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime) is continuously researching and monitoring global illicit drug markets to earn a more comprehensive understanding of their dynamics. In 2003, UN reported that US\$321.6 billion was generated by the global drug trade with a world GDP of US\$36 trillion in the same year, which the illegal drug trade may be estimated as nearly 1% of the total global trade due to globally spread consumption of illegal drugs.

The proceeds of drug trafficking are being used to finance illegal organizations such as international terrorist groups. Over 20 officially designated terrorist organizations have been connected to the global drug trade.

The Illegal drug trade is widely observed by lawmakers as a serious offense around the world. Penalties usually depend on the type of drug, where the drugs are sold, the quantity trafficked and how they are distributed. Drug smuggling carries harsh penalties in many nations, Sentencing may include interminable periods of incarceration, flogging and even the death penalty which is only in some nations such as Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia elsewhere.

The first illegal drug trade emerged in the early 19th century in China, and as a result, by 1838 the number of Chinese opium addicts had heightened to between four and twelve million. The Chinese government responded by enforcing a ban on the import of opium which led to the First Opium War between Qing dynasty China and the United Kingdom.

## 2. Definition of the Key Terms

### **UNODC (United Nations Office on Drug and Crime)**

UNODC was established in 1997 by merging between United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and they operate in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field officers. It helps Governments react to the insecurity and instability caused by crimes like the smuggling of illicit drugs, natural resources, weapons, and human beings between countries and continents.

### **Drug Prohibition**

The prohibition of drugs through religious law or sumptuary legislation is a means of attempting to prevent the recreational use of the certain drugs and other intoxicating substances. While some drugs are illegal to occupy, many governments regulate the manufacture, marketing, distribution, sale and use of certain drugs through a prescription system.

### **Black market**

A black market which is also called as shadow economy or underground economy is a secrecy market or transaction which has some aspect of illegality or is characterized by some form of noncompliant behavior with an institutional set of rules. By banning drugs from keeping or using of some recreational drugs in many countries, many people used the black market to supply them an illegal drug. Despite the previous attempts of law enforcement in order to intercept the trade of illegal drugs, global demands on them still remain high, which eventually provides a large profitable motive for organized criminal groups to continue with their illegal provision of drugs.

### **International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)**

INTERPOL or ICPO is an intergovernmental organisation facilitating international police cooperation. The INTERPOL's primary drug-control role is to identify new drug trafficking trends and criminal organizations operating at the international level and to reinforce all national and international law enforcement bodies which are concerned with illicit production, trafficking and abuse of drugs

### **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)**

The Drug Enforcement Administration is a federal law enforcement agency in the United States under the U.S Department of Justice, tasked with combating drug uses and smuggling within the United States. The DEA is the leading agency for domestic enforcement of the restrained substances act, sharing concurrent jurisdiction with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the U.S Border Patrol. It has sole responsibility for coordinating and pursuing U.S drug investigation both within the US and abroad.

### **AlphaBay Market**

AlphaBay Market is one of the biggest online black market sites and has been a top dog from 2014. They sell various legal and illegal goods and it's also famous for selling drugs.

### **Drug Cartel**

A drug cartel is any criminal group with the intention of supplying drug trafficking operations. They range from loosely managed agreements among various drug traffickers to formalized commercial enterprises. The term was enforced when the largest trafficking organizations reached an agreement to coordinate the production and distribution of cocaine. Since that agreement was broken, drug cartels are no longer cartels, but the term stuck and it is now popularly used to refer to any criminal narcotics related to the organization.

A drug cartel has a basic structure of 4 positions, which contains Falcons who supervises and reports the activities of the police, rival groups, and the military. Hitmen, the armed group within the drug cartel, and responsible for carrying out

kidnappings, assassination, and defending their plaza (turf). Lieutenants, who have the second-highest position in the drug cartel group, responsible for supervising hitmen and falcons. Finally, drug lords, which is the highest position in any drug cartel, and they are responsible for supervising the entire drug industry.

### 3. Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of Event
Early 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Illegal trade in China emerged
1839-1842	First Opium War broke out between United Kingdom and Qing dynasty China by the Chinese government enforced a ban on the import of opium.
1856	The Second Opium War broke out with the British joined this time with French.
1868	By the increased use of opium, the UK restricted the sale of Opium by implementing the 1868 Pharmacy Act
1912	International Opium Convention has passed
1914	Harrison Act introduced
1920-1933	Alcohol was banned in the US by Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
2 August, 1937	Implementation of the Marijuana Tax act
14 July 1969	United States President Richard Nixon called for a national anti-drug policy at both the state and federal level. He officially declared 'War on Drugs.'
1 July 1973	Establishment of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
12 January 2002	Establishment of the United Nations Office on Drugs and

	Crime (UNODC)
20 May 2013	The Australian Crime Commission's illegal drug data report for 2011-2012 was released in Western Sydney
March 2014	The UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the chief drug policy making body of the UN, held its annual meeting in Vienna, Austria.

#### 4. Positions of Key Member Nations and Other Bodies on the Issue

##### **United States**

In the United States, the effects of the illegal drug trade can be seen from political, economic, and social aspects. The increase in drug-related violence can be tied to the racial tension that arose during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century with the political upheaval prevalent throughout the 1960s and 70s. In the 1960s, a large generation, the baby boomers, came of age and their social tendency to confront the law on specific issues including illicit drugs, overwhelmed the understaffed judicial system. The federal government tried to enforce the law, but with a lack of effect. The baby boomer generation also felt the effects of the drug trade in their expanded drug use from the 1960s to 80s. The commercial marijuana use was on the rise and this increased the supply and demand for marijuana at that time.

Even though narcotics are illegal in the US, they have become deeply integrated into the nation's culture. Therefore, illegal drugs are considered to be a commodity with high demand in the US. Despite the constant effort by politicians to win the wars on drugs, the US is still the world's largest importer of illegal drugs.

##### **Colombia**

Colombia has had a significant role in the illegal drug trade in Latin America. It was popular for smugglers in Colombia to import liquor, cigarettes, alcohol, and textiles, while exporting cocaine. Despite the eradication of marijuana plantations in Mexico, demand remained high, resulting in Colombia being forced to meet the demand by growing more marijuana. Marijuana eventually became the leading cash crop in

Columbia due to the growth in strategic Northeast region of Colombia, this success was short-lived due to anti-marijuana campaigns that were enforced by US military throughout the Caribbean.

Colombia's location facilitated the exportations of cocaine's transportation from South America into Central America, and then to its destination of North America. This continued in the 1990s and the business of drug trafficking can be seen in several stages in Columbia towards the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Mexico**

The corruption in Mexico has led to the domination of Mexican cartels in the illegal drug trade. Since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Mexico's political environment allowed the growth of drug-related activity. The loosened regulation over the transportation of illegal drugs and the failure to capture known drug traffickers and gangs significantly increased the growth of the drug industry. This caused a decrease in the power of law enforcement officers in regulation over such activities.

In 1929, the Institutional Revolutionary party (PRI) was created to resolve the chaos resulting from the Mexican Revolution. This party gained political influence and had a major impact on Mexico's social and economic policies.

### **Venezuela**

Venezuela has been a main route to the United States for illegal drugs originating in Colombia, through countries such as Mexico, Central America, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. As reported by United Nations, there was a rise of cocaine trafficking through Venezuela since 2002 and 2005 by serving ties with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and also the expansion of DEA's relationship with Columbia.

### **Relevant UN Solutions**

Resolution S-30/1, 2016 (A/RES/S-30/1)

Resolution 70/181, 2015 (A/RES/69/201)

## Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

In order to combat drug wars and other drug-related issues, the United Nations created the UNODC since 1997. UNODC has created several bodies and conventions which focus on more specific issues related to drugs and crimes. Furthermore, the UNODC has developed many anti-drug campaigns and each of them aims to prevent or eliminate drug use, and raise awareness of drugs and crime problems.

The General Assembly has decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an interpretation of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to reach the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

The United Nations has had three major conventions to address the issue of drug trafficking. There were Single Convention On Narcotic Drugs in 1961, Convention On psychotropic Substances in 1971 and finally The United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic In Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 1988.

## 5. Suggested Solution

The establishment of a new organization within nations to provide surveillance throughout the border of that specific nation and key drug trafficking routes. The area will be facilitated with higher numbers of professionally trained security personnel and/or high range technology that consists x-ray and body scanning technology.

Increase the cooperation between key countries and organizations such as UNODC and DEA regarding secret trade routes used by drug cartels so that the Intelligence Agencies of the respective countries are able to effectively interfere and confiscate the transported drugs.

The implementation of education and rehabilitation programs in member states that will aid those who may be at risk of drug addiction, with the aid the UNODC, to decrease the demand for drugs eventually. There will be mandatory education

programs related to drug usage and addiction in schools and information campaigns aimed at destigmatizing drug abuse so that individuals will be more likely to seek professional help and report drug dealers.

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