



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



3rd SCH-Combating Organized Crime

3rd SCH, or the United Nations Third Committee of the General Assembly, is one that focuses on Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural issues, hence the acronym of SCH. This is a committee where any UN member state may participate, but proceedings always focus on humanistic problems that may pertain to a particular region or may span multiple continents along with any intermediate range. This committee generally debates topics relating to human rights, refugee situations, and humanitarian crises.

Background:

Organized Crime are groups typically run by transnational, national, and local criminals who partake in illegal activities, normally for money and profit. However, some are involved in politics. An organized crime could be a gang, mob, mafia, etc. These groups threaten peace, security, rights, politics, cultures, societies, and economies. Organized crime involves many things such as trafficking in drugs, natural resources, wildlife, firearms, and even people. Organized crime groups exploit human mobility to smuggle migrants and undermine financial systems through money laundering. The vast sums of money involved can compromise legitimate economies and directly impact public processes by 'buying' elections through corruption. It yields high profits for its culprits and results in high risks for individuals who fall victim to it. Every year, countless individuals lose their lives at the hand of criminals involved in organized crime, succumbing to drug-related health problems or injuries inflicted by firearms, or losing their lives as a result of the unscrupulous methods and motives of human traffickers and smugglers of migrants. Organized crime has diversified, gone global, and reached macroeconomic proportions: illicit goods may be sourced from one continent, trafficked across another, and marketed in a third. Transnational organized crime can permeate government agencies and institutions, fueling corruption, infiltrating business and politics, and hindering economic and social development. And it is undermining governance and democracy by empowering those who operate outside the law. Transnational organized crime means that criminal networks forge bonds across borders as well as overcome cultural and linguistic differences in the commission of their crime. Organized crime is not stagnant, but adapts as new crimes emerge and as relationships between criminal networks become both more flexible, and more sophisticated, with ever-greater reach around the globe.

UN Involvement:

The UNODC has been greatly involved in organized crime as it is the “guardian” of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Organized Crime Convention) and the three Protocols (Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking of Firearms) that supplement it.

This is the only international convention that deals with organized crime. In 2000 the Convention was adopted at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2000 and forced into entry in 2003. The Organized Crime Convention offers States parties a framework for



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preventing

and combating organized crime, and a platform for cooperating in doing so. States parties to the Convention have committed to establishing the criminal offences of participating in an organized crime group, money laundering, corruption and obstruction of justice in their national legislation. By becoming parties to the UNTOC, States also have access to a new framework for mutual legal assistance and extradition, as well as a platform for strengthening law enforcement cooperation. States parties have also committed to promoting training and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of national authorities to address organized crime.

Possible Solutions:

In order to solve Organized Crime, governments, businesses, society, and local and international organizations have to be involved. It is vital to have integrated action at the international level to identify, investigate, and prosecute the people and groups behind these crimes. Even education and awareness are needed in order for citizens to learn more about organized crime and how it affects everyday lives. Expressing one's concerns to policy and decision makers so that this truly global threat is considered by politicians to be a top priority among the public's major concerns is also crucial. Consumers have a key role by knowing what they are purchasing, to ensure that organized crime is not further fueled. Even more important is intelligence and technology. Criminal justice systems and conventional law enforcement methods are often no match for powerful criminal networks. Better intelligence methods need to be developed through the training of more specialized law enforcement units, which should be equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Lastly, all nations need to work together in putting end to organized crime.

Bloc Positions:

Asia: Asian organized crime syndicates are behind many serious crimes whose impact is felt on a global level. Their criminal activities are not limited to Asia itself but are carried out in countries all over the world. Major activities of these criminal gangs include drug trafficking, human smuggling, money laundering, illegal gambling, extortion and kidnapping.

Latin America: Latin America is home to some of the world's worst organized crime. Groups that traffic drugs, weapons, and at times, even persons have made the region one of the most violent in the world.

Africa: Africa faces numerous organized crime challenges.

Middle East: In the Middle East organized crime is on the rise.

West: Much of the Western Bloc experiences organized crime.

Questions to Consider:



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What are the

main criminal activities of organized crimes?

What is your country's stance on organized crime and do they experience it?

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