



Crime and Security Challenges : Opportunities and Strategies for Regional Collaboration

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Introduction

The world continues to evolve into a more global environment, therefore transnational criminal organizations have found it much easier to expand their reach across borders, extending their networks and conducting their business with relative comfort. The activities of these organizations constitute some of the most pressing problems for the Caribbean with far reaching social and economic costs.



Threats to the Security of the Region

- *Narcotics Trafficking and associates crimes*
- *Arms Trafficking*
- *Transnational Organized Crime*
- *Gang Activities*
- *Criminal Deportees*
- *Terrorism*



Threats to the Security of the Region cont'd

- ***Money laundering***
- ***Human Trafficking***
- ***Kidnapping***
- ***Corrupt Influences***



What is Security?

- The ability of a nation to protect its internal values from external threats.
(International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences 1968)
- Security also implies a stable relative unchanged atmosphere in which individuals or groups may pursue their ends without disruption or harm and without fear of loss or injury (Golsby 1992:53)



Organized Crime (*Def.*)

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, “Organized Crime consist of organizations that have durability, hierarchy and involvement in a multiplicity of criminal activities.



Drug Trafficking

- Drug trafficking is a source of income for transnational organized crime group
- A destabilizing force capable of ruining peace and security in the region
- The Caribbean region is a major transshipment between the source and the consuming countries
- Vulnerability for increased trafficking due to recession

NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING



Maritime Activity – 212 Events
Suspect Air Activity – 132 Tracks

Threat Level
HIGH



Arms Trafficking

- Arms and drugs trafficking are closely related
- They make use of the same transit route
- Arms and drug trading has become common place in the Caribbean
- It contribute to serious economic cost, e.g..(injuries resulted in disabilities, constraint on the Health and National Security budget, labour and production



Narcotics Statistics (kg)

| Seizure | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Ganja | 37440 | 35508 | 22294 |
| Cocaine | 98.21 | 266 | 264 |
| | | | |
| Eradication | | | |
| | 490 Hectares | 394 Hectares | “ “ |

Arms Trafficking Opportunities



MONEY LAUNDERING

Threat Level
MODERATE



- Legitimizing Ill-Gotten Gains
- Financing of Terrorist Organizations

- Investments
 - Real Estate
 - Luxury Goods & Services
 - Export / Import Services
- Offshore Currency Trading
- In-Bond Merchandizing
- Questionable Remittances
- Money Couriering



Deportation (*Def*)

The formal removal of a non-citizen of any country by the state on the assumption that this citizen has violated the terms and condition of his of her status



- Statistics from the Department of Homeland Security indicates that more than 50,000 criminal deportees returned to the Caribbean in the last ten years.
- The breakdown for the English-speaking Caribbean is as follows:
- Jamaica - 14,006
- Trinidad - 2,589
- Guyana - 1,742
- Barbados - 484



Breakdown cont'd

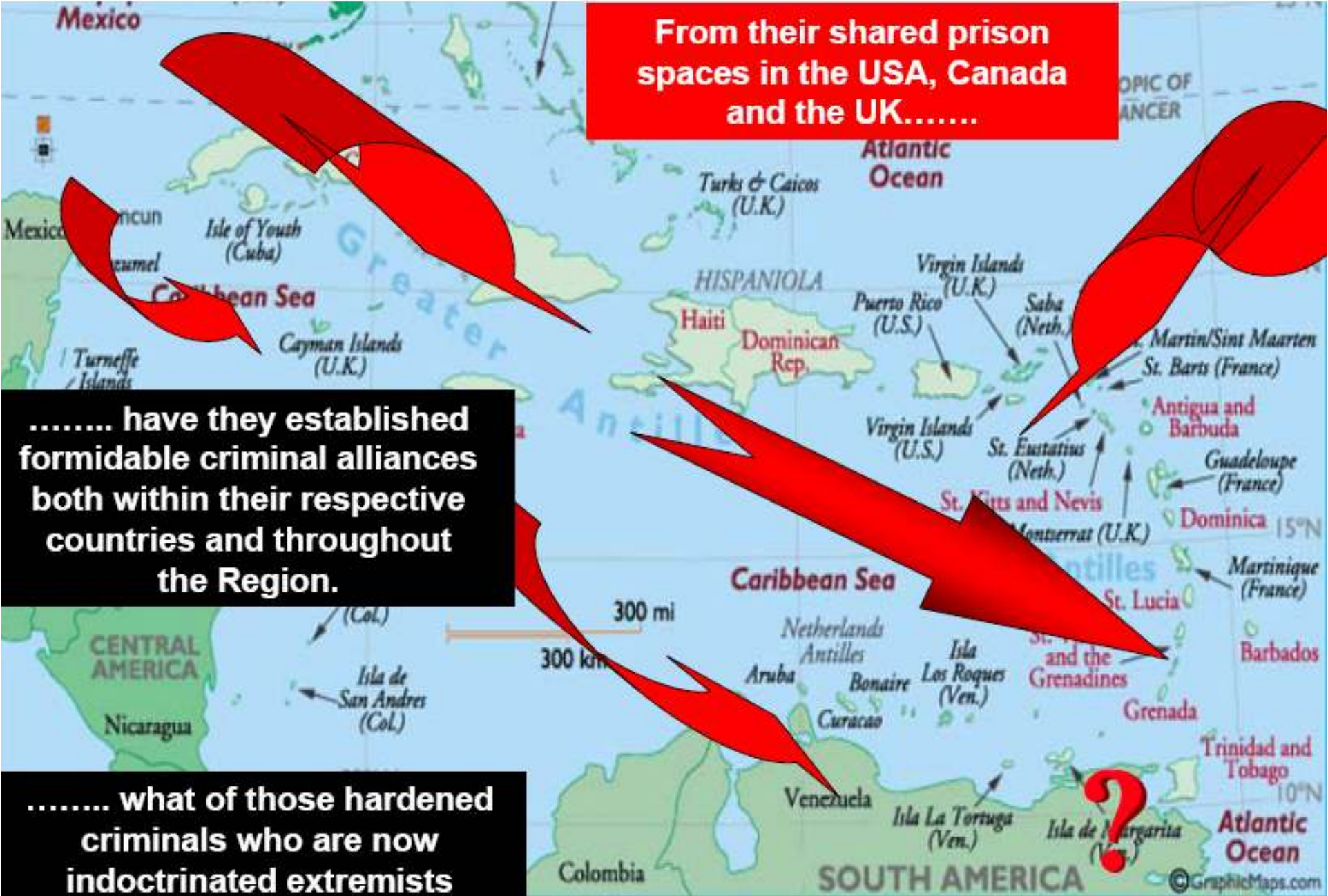
| | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----|
| Antigua & Barbuda | - | 303 |
| St. Vincent & Grenadines | - | 202 |
| St. Lucia | - | 192 |
| Dominica | - | 177 |
| Grenada | - | 176 |

DEPORTEES

From their shared prison spaces in the USA, Canada and the UK.....

..... have they established formidable criminal alliances both within their respective countries and throughout the Region.

..... what of those hardened criminals who are now indoctrinated extremists





Deportee Statistics

31,288 persons were deported (1/01/2000 to 31/12/09)

Offences

- Narcotics trafficking
- Murder,
- Sexual offences,
- Kidnapping, assault,
- overstaying/illegal entry. (JCF Stats)



- For 2009, 3076 returned to the island of which 32% were for drug offences.



Deportees involvement in Crimes

- Intelligence suggest that criminal deportees continue criminal activities on their return to the island.

Activities

- Gang leaders
- Gang members
- Gang associates & financiers
- Suppliers of arms and ammunition



Deportee Involvement cont'd

- Command and control over local gangs, procure and supply arms and ammunition as also finance their activities.
- Some have sought to resume leadership
 - met with some amount of resistance especially from persons who have assumed leadership during their absence.



Involvement cont'd

This sometimes results in gang feuds and turf wars.

The divisions where most of the deportees resides have a very high crime rate.

St. Andrew South - 239 murders in 2009

St. James - 240 murders in 2009

Clarendon - 161 “ “



Deportee per Parish

- The number of deportees
 - St. Andrew South - 352
 - St. James - 230
 - Clarendon - 355



Crime Statistics 2008-2009 (Jamaica)

- Murder = 3298
- Kidnapping = 16
- Guns seized = 1182
- Gang related murders = 1907
- Gun related murders = 2536



Gangs (Def.)

- A gang is a group of three or more persons, who through the organization, formation and establishment of an assemblage share a common identity.
- Usually a gang denotes a criminal organization or criminal affiliation made up of persons between the ages of 12 and 25 years (Wikipedia)



Criminal Gang in Jamaica

- Approximately 251 criminal
- Membership range between 10 and 200 each (JCF 2010)
- Gangs in Jamaica operate at three levels.
 - **High** - Gangs such as Clans, One Order, Umbrella, Stone Crusher operate at the high level due to political, community and business influence.
 - **Moderate** and **Low** tend to strive off the high level gangs.



- Some of these criminal gangs have strong links to political parties.
- Some gang conflicts occurred due to politics which becomes evident during election campaigns and awarding of contracts



Gangs in Trinidad

- Roughly 80 gangs with a membership of not more than 1200 persons.
- Political motivation
 - Influential in turning up loyal supporters during election and physical menace would be applied to opposition voters.



Crime Statistics 2007-2009 (Trinidad)

- Murder = 1444
- Kidnapping = 478
- Guns Seized = 1339
- Gang related murders = 627
- Gun related murders = 967



- Gang violence has consumed Trinidad with terrifying speed. Between 1998 and 2008 the number of murders has increased fivefold, from 98 to 550, and the number of guns seized by the police has risen from 140 to 437 (Stabroek News April 2, 2010)



- More gun related deaths per capita than in Jamaica at 42 per 100,000.00 which is more than double the regional average of 18.1 per 100,000.00 (The Huffington Post April 2, 2010)



Human Trafficking

- The Caribbean is believed to be a significant source and trans-shipment point for Human Trafficking with other countries in Latin America.
- Purposes for Human Trafficking
 - Exploitation
 - Forced labour



Channels

- Trafficking within the region
- Trafficking from outside the region
- Internal Trafficking



Kidnapping (*types*)

- **Conventional:**
 - ✓ By far the most common form of kidnapping.
 - ✓ Accomplished with minimal preparation
 - ✓ Has a relatively low risk of failure.
 - ✓ Kidnappers will generally target people who have the ability to pay a ransom.
- ***The kidnapper's goal is a fast, easy payoff.***



Kidnapping (*types*) *cont'd*

- **Tiger:**

The abduction or holding of a hostage or have claim to done so with the intention of forcing an employee, relative or another to facilitate the immediate theft of any valuables or concede some other form of ransom from any institution or business organization



Kidnapping

- Major problem in Trinidad and Tobago
- Growing problem in Jamaica
- 16 cases from 2008 to present in Jamaica
- Ransom of up to 20 million demanded
- Seven arrests
- Suspects in other cases identified



Terrorism

- Caribbean is considered a soft target.
- Geo-political
 - The region can be used as a launching pad for attacks given our close proximity to the United States.
 - Little or no information on people travelling through our ports.
 - Development of radical groups, (Al Faisal, Jamaat al Muslimeen



Corruption and its effects

- Effect on political and legislative framework
 - a. Campaign money
 - b. Influence Jury
 - c. Police
 - d. Judges
 - e. Public bodies



Opportunities through Collaboration


- Strengthening of existing legislations
- Greater coordination of the regional security systems, e.g. Regional Security System (RSS)
- Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police to lobby governments within the region through Caricom for integrated regional single security apparatus



- Effective use of the Caribbean Single Market & Economy, e.g.. Ship Rider Agreement
- Reinvigorate the Regional Intelligence Plan (Cisnet)
- Maximize human and physical resources
- Combined surveillance assets
- Joint Intelligence Operations
- Activate the Intelligence Chief committee



Questions?

A large, semi-transparent globe graphic is positioned in the lower half of the slide, showing the Americas. The globe is rendered in shades of blue and grey, with a soft glow effect.

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