

## Organised Crime/Terror Nexus Workshop

**A collaboration between the Strategic Hub for Organised Crime Research (SHOC) at RUSI and the University of Sussex Terrorism and Extremism Network (STERN)**

Tuesday 22 May 2018, 11.00 – 15.00

RUSI, 61 Whitehall, London

The organised crime/terror nexus manifests at various levels. Organised crime groups and terrorists may converge, permanently or opportunistically. For instance, terrorist groups such as the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) are known to tax and extort drugs traffickers operating within the territory they control; and the Neapolitan Camorra were found to be supplying heavy weapons to ETA in return for shipments of drugs.

Furthermore, the use of criminal tactics by terrorists to further their activities financially and operationally is a recurrent phenomenon, ranging from the IRA's involvement in racketeering to drug dealing by members of European terror cells. These examples prompt reflection on the nature of the linkages between organised crime and terror.

As a result, the organised crime/terror nexus remains a subject of sustained concern for policy-makers and law enforcement agencies. However, the development of evidence-based policies is complicated by the challenges of researching the activities of criminal and terrorist networks. This is particularly so in a technology-driven age, with the opportunities that cyber space offers to terrorists and criminals.

This workshop is jointly organised by the Strategic Hub for Organised Crime Research (SHOC) at RUSI and the newly created Sussex Terrorism and Extremism Network (STERN) at the University of Sussex. It brings together representatives from government, law enforcement agencies and academia to take stock of the current state of knowledge on the terrorism/organised crime nexus and discuss its implications for law enforcement in Europe.

In the first session, the panellists will discuss the European experiences of identifying and disrupting the use of criminal tactics by terrorists. The second session will feature break-out discussions focusing on the avenues for future research.

### *Discussion questions:*

- What evidence is there that terrorists interact with organised criminal groups and, if so, why do they interact?
- How do (and how should) we identify the organised crime/terror nexus and why do we need a common understanding of its meaning?
- To what extent do terrorists use organised crime tactics, and how do their modi operandi differ across Europe?
- How can the use of organised crime tactics by terrorists – as distinct from joint actions by terrorists and criminals – be disrupted?
- What directions of future research in the area can assist practitioners and policy-makers?

## Agenda

1045 – 1100 Registration and Coffee

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1100 – 1115 **Introduction**

**Aurora Ganz**, Research Fellow, RUSI

**John Jupp**, Lecturer in Law, University of Sussex, Director of Sussex Terrorism and Extremism Network (STERN)

1115 – 1300 **European Experiences of the Organised Crime/Terror Nexus**

Speakers:

**Matt Garrod**, Lecturer in Law, University of Sussex, Director of Sussex Terrorism and Extremism Network (STERN)

**Dr Tamara Makarenko**, Managing Director, West Sands Advisory

**Tuesday Reitano**, Deputy Director, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime

**Detective Constable Stephen Ward**, Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI)

**Colonel Claudio Petrozziello**, Guardia di Finanza

**Florence Keen**, Research Analyst, RUSI (Chair)

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1300 – 1345 Lunch

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1345 – 1500 **Implications for Academic Research**

Roundtable Discussions

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1500 Workshop Close

*The Strategic Hub for Organised Crime Research (SHOC) was launched in December 2015 with the support of the Economic and Social Research Council. The aim of SHOC is to bring together academics, policymakers and practitioners to create a network of experts, working to improve understanding of and responses to serious and organised crime. For more information, please visit [shoc.rusi.org](http://shoc.rusi.org).*