

**Freshman #16**

TOPIC:combatting organized crime



# SOCOMUN XXVII

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Combatting Organized Crime

Hi everyone! My name is Catherine Nilsen and I will be one of your co-chairs at the 2018 SOCOMUN conference. I am currently a senior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School and I have been involved in the MUN program for four years now. I started my MUN career as a freshman delegate at SOCOMUN, and ever since then, I have been debating in various conferences. I was fortunate enough to attend the GAUCHO MUN conference at UCSB and have been able to travel to advance conferences all throughout Southern California. MUN has helped me explore different possibilities and has allowed me to grow as an individual. I have applied my speaking and exceptional interactive skills to various activities during my high school career. In my free time, I cheer and dance with my Song team (Pep squad) and I volunteer at Mission Hospital. I love serving in a position on the ASB Executive council at Santa Margarita Catholic High School and enjoy being incredibly involved in my school. Furthermore, MUN has opened many doors for me and has helped me in various ways. I enjoy being part of such an elite and selective program!

My hope is that you all will have a great experience at SOCOMUN and either learn about what exactly MUN is or grow in your debating experience. The committee chairs, legal, and secretary will help you through the process of engaging in debate. Once we are settled in committee, we will direct you to debate in which every delegate is encouraged to say a speech about the appointed topic. We will also go more into depth by allowing you all to expand upon your ideas with other delegates in a type of discussion called caucus. Throughout the conference, you will work with delegates to come up with a resolution and list your possible solutions and share this with the rest of committee. It is crucial that all delegates know their country's policy regarding the topic and understand the topic you will debate. During the conference, if you have questions, please don’t hesitate to ask! Also, if you have questions beforehand, please email me at [socomunfresh16@gmail.com](mailto:socomunfresh16@gmail.com). I cannot wait to meet you all and best of luck!

Hi! My name is Josette Odgers, and I will be the Legal for SOCOMUN Freshman Committee 16, 2018. I am a Junior at Santa Margarita and have been a part of the MUN program at Santa Margarita since my freshman year. Throughout my years in MUN, I have participated in a wide range of committees, all which allow me to explore world issues. In MUN committees, we are pushed to take our understanding a step further and try to solve these issues. One aspect of MUN which has always intrigued me, is the opportunity that it gives me to be creative with my solutions and looking at a situation in a completely different way in order to try and develop a solution to the issue. Outside of MUN, I have participated in the Santa Margarita Swimming and Diving team on the Varsity level for the past two years. Swimming has always been an integral part of my life that I believe has shaped me to be the person I am today. I hope that each one of you enjoys the amazing experience that SOCOMUN has to offer, and that you are able to learn and grow from this conference.

Hello, my name is Emily Xie and I will be your secretary for SOCOMUN XXVII! I am currently a sophomore here in Santa Margarita and this is my second year in the MUN program. Through my experience last year, I become more experienced in communicate and negotiate with not just delegates, but also friends, family, and other people around me. Besides MUN, I am also a part of Eagle Regiment, and I play golf during my free time.

**Background:**

Organized crime is defined as a group of individuals who work together to illicit profit through illegal and violent methods. Countries all throughout the world struggle with restricting crimes and reducing the number of gang violence, murder, and robberies that take place within their own borders. Although organized crime has always existed in various ways, it hit its peak at the duration of the 1920s in America, and has morphed into transnational organized crime, where it targets different areas globally. These organizations operate similarly to businesses; however, they integrate violence into their work and even practice bribery in order to receive what they want. They conduct their business under a variety of structures such as clans, cells or hierarchies. Generally, one of their main goals is to produce economic gain and to eventually make a profit from the various illegal activities they participate in. They even try to influence governments and politics so that they can continue their practices. The crimes committed range from drug smuggling, human trafficking, gambling, firearm trafficking, money laundering, extortion, cybercrimes, and even include identity theft. In 2012, it was recorded that the global homicide rate alone is 6.2 per 100,000 population. Latin America is widely known for maintaining the greatest amount of violence and crimes. In addition to this, several countries such as Honduras, Venezuela, Guatemala, South Africa, and Jamaica hold the highest rates of organized crime and continue to struggle every day with combatting organized crime within their regions. According to The Telegraph, a country such as Honduras is one of the world’s hotspots for arms trafficking and has taken the lives of around 170 people per 100,000 people. Seeing that this country has a large amount of deaths due to organized crimes itself, it is imperative that this impending issue ends.

Organized crime has been an increasingly crucial issue as it has grown over the last few decades and exists all over the world. The illegal goods come from one country, are transported across another country and then sold in another. These organizations have made huge profits and gained power throughout the world. For example, a Russian mafia syndicate known as Solntsevskaya Bratva managed to claim $8.5 billion in revenue after 9,000 members joined the action. Most of this money was made from the drug trade and human trafficking. The U.K. government claimed in 2013 that organized crime from the drug trade, trafficking and fraud schemes, cost the British economy approximately $37 billion a year. Spain’s organized crime problem ranks high in Europe as well, due largely in part to its location. It acts like a transit country for buying and selling illicit goods. Overall, organized crime continues to damage prospering communities and societies all around the world and serves as a threat to international security. The immense amounts of money earned disrupt legitimate economies and even affect secured and efficient governments. Furthermore, the internet and international terrorism have made it possible for organized crime to grow through websites, advertisements, and other outlets of social media. The gradual increase of technology available has made cybercrimes more prevalent in this age of the internet. Activities, such as Phishing, internet auction fraud, internet gambling and advanced fee schemes, allow criminals to target countries without having to be within the same area, country, or continent. Organized crime has become a serious threat to national and international security, and therefore, has been causing instability for public safety, governments, and economic growth in societies everywhere.

Since organized crime is all over the world, efforts to crack down on it requires a coordinated transnational response. The problem is too big for one country to deal with alone. To combat organized crime, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/25 in November 2000. At the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (United Nations on Transnational Organized Crime), three protocols were announced. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children was the first legally binding document that defined trafficking in persons. Defining the problem makes it possible to investigate and prosecute individuals as well as protect the victims’ human rights. The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air was adopted to deal with the smuggling of migrants. This Protocol helps to prevent and fight migrant smuggling, protect the rights of migrants and prevent their exploitation. The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition was created to help prevent the manufacturing and sale of illegal firearms. This Protocol enacted crime control measures such as establishing criminal offenses related to illegal manufacturing and trafficking of firearms. It also called for government authorizations or licensing to ensure legitimate manufacturing of firearms and for the marking and tracing of firearms.

Another important resource in combatting organized crime has been the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), which works in cooperating with partnerships and nongovernmental organizations worldwide. It is a liaison between international organizations and different networks to combat organized crime. Its key focus is on international cooperation in criminal matters. The UNTOC focus is to aid law enforcement with tools such as extradition, asset confiscation, and transfer of prisoners. Through the use of networks such as UNTOC, UNODC has been effective in training individuals to combat crime while providing certain protocols to conferences and in meetings. The United Nations has become dedicated to decreasing the amount of organized crime related activities that take place globally.

**Possible Solutions:**

It is extremely important that you suggest and thoroughly describe the solutions you propose. These solutions must align with your country’s policy concerning this particular topic. Keep in mind that you must continue to refer to yourself as the country you are representing (i.e. country of Canada or just Canada) as you are presenting certain solutions. It is crucial that these solutions are supported by different organizations, protocols, and procedures to ensure that these solutions are strong.

One example of proposing possible solutions can be fighting organized crime within Canada. Canada has a varied amount of crimes per region. Cities such as Manitoba and Saskatchewan have the highest rates of crime including those crimes of sexual assault, homicides, and robberies. By utilizing the National Coordinating Committee on Organized Crime in areas other than countries such as Canada, numerous countries would be able to have the same benefits from the program. Issues of recent crimes would be addressed, and policy priorities would correspond with the particular problem of the organized crime. Also, the program enlists that FTP Deputy Ministers would be contacted on how exactly the problem developed, address the implementation of policies, and also include programs that are aimed at targeting organized crime. In doing this, countries will not only ensure safety within their own borders but also develop coordination with other regions of the world through anti-organized crime activities whether these locations are local and global. The country of Canada believes that this solution will be an effective way in reducing the numbers of gangs, mafias, and cybercrimes currently taking place within the world. Canada will continue to work for the common good of its people and strive to find new solutions and ways to unite countries all over the world.

**Questions to consider:**

The questions stated below are different ideas to consider and keep in mind while researching and conducting solutions, specifically for the topic of organized crime. Please keep in mind that you will not be expected to answer these questions during committee while attending the conference. They are rather a source or topic your research should cover.

1. What social, economic, and cultural factors does your country face that lead to the increasingly complicated issue?
2. What are some of the actions your country has already taken into consideration in order to solve this crisis?
3. How can communities all around the world work together to decrease the organized crime rates in their area?
4. What non-governmental organizations would aid in a crisis like combatting organized crime?
5. Which groups of organized crime are most prevalent in your country? Include statistics about crime rates and percentages of people involved.

Works Cited

“United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.” *United Nations Convention Againts Transnational Organized Crime*, United Nations, 13 Nov. 2000.

<[www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html)>

This article is an overview of transnational organized crimes, and solutions adopted from General Assembly resolution 55/25 of November 2000. It listed enforcements on specific aspects of transnational organized crimes, and when each aspect was entered into force. This provides great material for UN involvement and some possible solutions.

Felbab-Brown, Vanda, and Eric Olson. “A Better Strategy to Combat Organized Crime in Mexico and Central America.” *Brookings*, Brookings, 29 July 2016.

<[www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2012/04/13/a-better-strategy-to-combat-organized-crime-in-mexico-and-central-america/](http://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2012/04/13/a-better-strategy-to-combat-organized-crime-in-mexico-and-central-america/).>

This article gives an overview on patterns of organized crimes in Mexico and Central America. Additionally, it provides some specific solutions to organized crimes and some suggestions to the government in combatting organized crimes. It focuses on transnational organized crimes in Central America and gives specific examples on organized drug trafficking. The author also mentions how high-value-targeting of crimes

“Transnational Organized Crime: A Growing Threat to National and International Security.” *National Archives and*

*Records Administration*, National Archives and Records Administration,

<[www.obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/eop/nsc/transnational-crime/threat](http://www.obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/eop/nsc/transnational-crime/threat).>

It provides specific information for each part of the world and their criminal activities. This is a great source for background information as well as some solutions for specifically for a part of the world.

“Combating Organized Crime and Regional Security Cooperation Readout.” *Department of*

*Homeland Security*, 16 June 2017.

<<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/06/16/combating-organized-crime-and-regional-security-cooperation-readout>>

This website is a very reliable source, and important to use for the background information as well as solutions. This article discusses the history of this issue briefly, as well as discussing how this issue can be put to an end.

"Effectively Combating Transnational Organized Crime." *National Institute of Justice*. N.p., n.d.

Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

<<http://isdp.eu/content/uploads/images/stories/isdp-main-pdf/2010_kego-ozkan_counteracting-transnational.pdf>>

This article is helpful for creating solutions. It explains three different solutions that would decrease the amount of organized crime; task forces, heightened awareness, and improved communications / intelligence sharing. Although this article is only on solutions, I believe it will help you create a extensive solution paragraph because it goes in depth and provides great evidence.

"Organized Crime - Characteristics Of Organized Crime." *JRank*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Apr. 2017.

<<http://law.jrank.org/pages/11942/Organized-Crime-Characteristics-organized-crime.html>>

This is a quick summary defining what organized crime is and how to recognize it. This would be useful in creating solutions that would define organized crime. It will also help you understand quickly what organized crime is.

"United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *Organized Crime*. N.p., n.d. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

<<http://www.unodc.org/>>

This is the official “un.org” article on organized crime. This article can assist you in writing a substantial “UN involvement” paragraph. This site explains what has been done to help this problem and what the United Nations are planning to do in the future. For example, the UN created the “The UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto.”

Matthews, Chris. “The Biggest Organized Crime Groups in the World.” *Fortune*, Fortune, 14

Sept. 2014,

<[www.fortune.com/2014/09/14/biggest-organized-crime-groups-in-the-world/](http://www.fortune.com/2014/09/14/biggest-organized-crime-groups-in-the-world/).>

This article summarizes the five biggest organized crime groups in the world, including groups with revenue as much as 8.5 billion dollars. The author gave out many factual statements and statistics about organized crime groups all around the world. In addition, it also mentions how these crimes affect our day to day lives. This is a great source for background information with many interesting statistics.

“Struggle against Organized Crime, Corruption, Drug Trafficking.” *United Nations*, United

Nations, 6 Oct. 2010,

<[www.un.org/press/en/2010/gashc3975.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/press/en/2010/gashc3975.doc.htm).>

This article is a press release from the United Nations regards the connection between organized crime, corruption, and drug trafficking. It expresses the challenge of combatting organized crimes due to its connection with corruption and drug trafficking. This is a great source for background information and UN involvement since it is a press release from the third committee of general assembly.