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A VIRTUAL IDYLIC OF THE RURAL

Severe crime in the rural communities

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CLASSIFICATION AND POSSIBLE CAUSES

There are certain categories of crime which we could label as rather typical for rural communities.

Those are, not necessarily in this order by their frequency:

- ❖ agricultural ones, e.g.: theft of equipment or fuel, livestock worrying, damage to property
- ❖ wildlife crime, e.g.: hare coursing, poaching, interfering with protected species
- ❖ illegal waste dumping
- ❖ polluting watercourses
- ❖ polluting land

Rural communities are also prone to almost every type of crime that exists in the cities, which is to say, crimes against the person, homicide, property crimes, drug charges etc.

The problem is not just the existence of these crimes but also inefficiency in their resolving. There is an undoubtable lack of enforcement in rural areas. Lack of enforcement, naturally, breeds crime.

Criminals become emboldened or move operations to areas where there's little danger of detection. Whether it's law enforcement or crime analytics or investigation capacity, on all those fronts, rural areas have less resources available than urban areas.

if we want to dissect this into categories of crime we are most likely to encounter in rural areas, and why them, we can roughly classificate them in This way:

Typical "non-urban" crimes

These would be the ones listed in the beginning. They are characteristic for rural communities either because they are closely linked to something that exists solely in these communities(wildlife examples)or because they are by their nature more likely to happen there.

Property crimes

This category of crime has a very high frequency both in urban and rural communities, but as already explained, certain circumstances make rural areas even more inclined to This type of crime.

Homicide

Family feuds resulting in violence and crimes that are preceded by unsupervised and unauthorised usage of weapons are rather typical for rural areas,even to the point of being able to catherogize almost every single mudrer happening there into one of these two sorts.

CASE STUDY

The roots of this story go back to year 2009, when the fall of another cocaine dealing Montenegrin gangster gave rise to the Kotor-based group that later split into two clans. Operation “Balkan Warrior,” which involved the famous DEA and Serbian intelligence, with help of Italian and Argentinian police, marked the end of one era, but another one was coming. At This point of time, members of the clans were all part of a single group, Kotor clan, that had built up a highly effective international cocaine smuggling network.



The members were from two small, rural areas located around the town of Kotor.

Fast forward to 2014

➤ What happened?

Two thousand kilos of cocaine that the Škaljari supposedly arrogated from the other fraction of the clan were found in a rented warehouse and the hassle over who it belonged to (at This time the clan was still united) resulted in the clan splitting into two.

➤ Where?

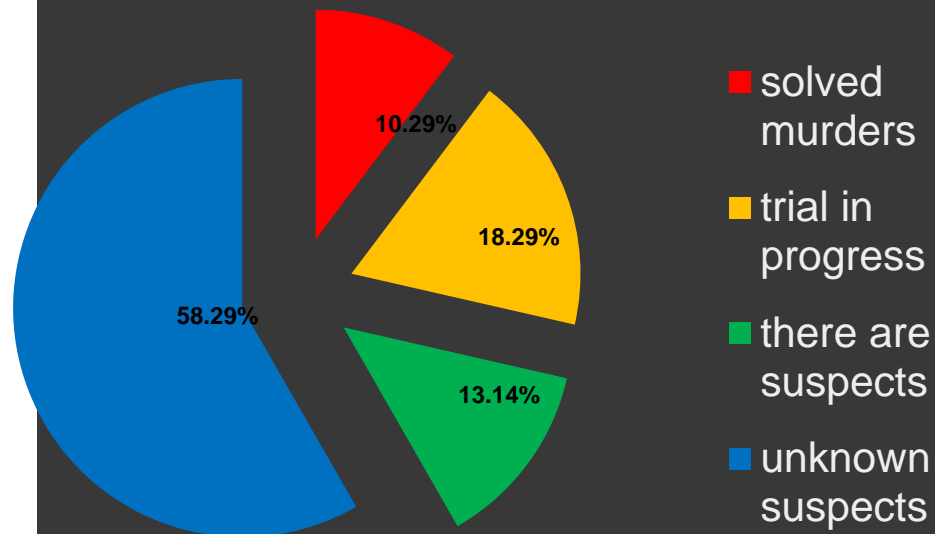
Valencia, Spain



Almost all of the murders that followed were carried out in a rather professional way. Since these organizations operated with large amounts of cash, they were both able to hire professional killers and provide them with weapons and other stuff such as silicone masks that were a rarity before-they make it almost impossible to identify the person wearing them from CCTV shootings. Family members were not spared.

database of murders carried out since 2012 on the territory of Serbia and Montenegro, which have the characteristics of mafia liquidations.

number of victims - 175





How does this abundance of crime affect our path to EU membership?

Montenegro has pledged to crack down on organized crime, both as part of its accession process to the European Union, and as a member of NATO, which it joined in 2017. It is interesting that all of This is still treated as a domestic issue, despite the fact that drug smuggling persecuted by these groups has international character. Even The European Union delegation noted that they "have direct links to crime groups in South America, which gives them a dominant position for the supply of cocaine to Europe. They operate largely outside Montenegro, including in EU countries." Montenegro's Special Public Prosecutor's Office, whose task is fighting organized crime, has done a lot of work which still gets described as "insufficient", which can be held as true, but we should also not forget that fighting organized crime can seem as a never-ending process and we should take in notice all of the results that we have had so far. There still remain creeping challenges to the modest gains achieved in this fight. European Union keeps a close watch AT these problems. In European Comission's report from 2018 it was Stated that "links between organized crime groups with all levels of government and administration, combined with an alarming presence of corruption Indicate a clear interference of private interests in the public sphere" We were granted funds programs aimed at fighting organized crime and corruption. There have been successes, there have been busts of hundreds of miliona worth in hashish and cocaine, but shortcomings remain. A country with crime rate as high a ours is set to have problems in the EU integration process, not to mention all the other remarks we are facing, including the lack of strong political will to effectively address all of the mentioned issues. The response of all authorities needs to be strong and coordinated in order to effectively resolve at least some percentage of these problems.



INTRODUCTION

The main obstructions for Montenegro and its membership in EU are chapters 23 and 24, especially when it comes to the rule of law. European Union lately draws attention to the facts about the crimes in the 90s that took place also in Montenegro, and in some of them Montenegro was even envolved. Referring to that, we will today talk about one of the biggest crimes that happend in rural communities, for which unfortunately noone took responsability. Bukovica is rural communiti which covers 37 villages, 104km², in the western part of city Pljevlja. Until 1993, it was mainly inhabited with muslim population. Through the XX century, this place was a target for ethnic cleansing(WWI, WWII, 90s)

CHRONOLOGY:

At the beginning of 1992, displaced 24 villages, and from 1992 to 1995 6 civilians killed, 11 people abducted, 2 suicides, 70 people suffered physical torture, 8 houses were set on fire along with village mosque, around 30 bombings. For these crimes, nobody took responsibility.

- The first abandoned house was set on fire on 23rd of September in 1993 in village Đenovići (house of Bavčić Halim). After this one, 7.
- 28th October 1992- the police beat up men in villages Čejrenci, Ograda, Vukšići i Madžari.
- 15th February 1993- uniformed persons kidnapped Ramizu Bungur from village Kruševci and her whole family: mother in law and her 2 kids, took them to prison, held them there for 3 months and then they were exchanged for Serbian fighters in Goražde.
- Second abduction: village Ravni, 16th February 93, kidnapped 6 persons from family Bungur (kidnapped by the army of Republic of Serbia). This group was released after the urgent intervention from Momir Bulatović.
- 18th February 93, reservists of the army of Jugoslavija tortured 3 men. In March 93 they beat up to death one man in village Vukšići.
- The most important example: 15th of June 93, village Tvrdakovići, Džafer Đogo 57 years old worker was murdered. While he was doing his work tasks, 2 uniformed drunk persons (soldiers of the army Bosnian Serbs citizens of Montenegro and Jugoslavija), physically tortured him, ordering him to lay down on the ground and after that fired a shot in his occiput. They threw the body next to the road. This event got its court epilogue, but was simply treated as murder. The killer was pardoned, accomplice released.

After these cases, most of the population escaped from Bukovica.

TRIAL:

Although media and NGO pointed out on these crimes and demanded determination of the responsibility, and although the state took its responsibility, individual responsibility was never determined. The only case that was prosecuted and punished was the case of Džafer Đoga. Legal experts have assessed that the quality of the investigation was weak and it took too much time.

Senior state prosecutor filed a claim in 2007, but shortly after that this investigation was declared as official secret.

NOTE: All data was taken from the book called "Bukovica 1993-1995 ethnic cleansing, crimes and violence"-Jakub Durgut and researches that were conducted by the Civic Alliance

Killing and torturing of animals

and poaching

Not so long ago a bear was killed in a village nearby Berane, a mother of two little ones who wandered through city looking for shelter, lost in the urban area. This is the latest in a series of cases of killing protected species which is a crime that often goes without adequate punishment. This resulted in many petitions, while sixty-two NGOs asked for a hunting moratorium. In less than six months there have been many killings of protected species. On February 17th, in Podgorica, a wounded owl was found and later it succumbed to the wounds. Three does were killed on Golija mountain nearby Nikšić on February 1st Last year in October CZIP took the task of working on recovery of a pelican that had been shot in Ulcinj, found by citizens

**Thank you for your
attention!**