



Bundeskriminalamt

Global Crime Hotspots - Impact on Germany

BKA-Autumn Conference, 25 - 26 November 2009

International Crime Hotspots: Causes, Developments, Counter-Strategies

Summary of the Presentation

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Practically all social interactions today are linked to globalisation. Geographical classifications are becoming relative. Cause and effect are sometimes far apart - from a geographical perspective as in the case of the transport of toxic waste and from a time perspective as in the case of weapons smuggling. There is even a tendency to remove the lines of demarcation on the Internet and the financial markets.

Globalisation is giving rise to a greater complexity of violent contexts, the merging of the typologies and contexts of criminal activity, the interrelationships between actors and the blending of legal and illegal activities. International crime hotspots are not only to be found where crime occurs but in those places where the effect of crime unfolds and it undermines or jeopardises existing legal systems.

The key problems that fuel international crime today lie in

- (1) the growth in the number of defective and weak states,
- (2) the existence of perpetuated/systemic violent conflicts,
- (3) the transnationalisation of *radical ideologies* and community of interests.

The most critical consequences can be identified on the basis of specific threat tendencies. The most important of these are set out in the European Security Strategy drawn up in 2003.

- (1) dissemination of weapons of mass destruction
- (2) terrorism
- (3) increase in regional conflicts
- (4) further weakening of already weak states
- (5) increase in organised crime

Under the aspect of crime suppression, countering these groups calls for:

- (1) a well-founded, anticipatory risk assessment, the stipulation of goals and priorities, the provision of the required resources as well as the evaluation of efficiency and effect
- (2) a systematic vertical and horizontal coordination and interaction with regard to prevention, investigation and prosecution as well as where raising awareness is concerned.
- (3) ensuring legitimacy and acceptance of ("global") domestic policy.