



**Autumn Conference of the Bundeskriminalamt
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SPEECH

BY

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Mr. Chairman,

Mr. President,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Unfortunately, INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald Noble could not be here today as he had originally intended. He asks for your kind understanding and I extend his greetings to you all.

It's an honour for me to deliver these remarks in his name and present INTERPOL's perspective on global crime hotspots. However given the excellent speech by your President and the other speakers today they have left me with little to say. But those colleagues that know me know this will not stop me. One of our speakers my colleague Mr. Zaccardelli gave to you the quote by Einstein on Insanity. I would like to give you a different quote from Einstein which I like to believe is about policing; he said, "The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who do not do anything about it." By holding this conference you are demonstrating your willingness to do something about the evil. Mr Wainwright also pointed out that Germany was the instigator of Europol in the early 1990's, but your involvement in international policing and its effects go back even further to being a founding member of INTERPOL in the 1920's.

Addressing this topic is not only pertinent for INTERPOL but also very timely.

Our Organization just held its Annual General Assembly in Singapore in October and launched a new initiative of great importance for global security.

We signed an agreement with the United Nations' Department for Peacekeeping Operations to join forces with the UN in enhancing the role and capacity of police in peacekeeping operations.

You may wonder why INTERPOL is getting involved in UN peacekeeping. Isn't peacekeeping a military affair after all?

The answer is 'no'. Or at least 'not only'.

Indeed, UN peacekeepers play a military-like role when, for example, they separate conflicting parties by occupying a buffer area. In doing so, peacekeepers play a crucial role in maintaining peace.

But in reality the role of peacekeepers goes well beyond this task, although it seems this element is getting the most international recognition.

Increasingly, peacekeepers are called upon to play another, possibly more complex roles in post-conflict areas: that of helping rebuild peace. And this role is largely played by police personnel; or so-called ‘police peacekeepers’.

Police peacekeepers play a central role in building peace in countries recovering from conflicts by doing just the same thing that they do at home — by combating crime locally and transnationally.

We all know that serious and organized crime aggravates conflicts. And countries recovering from conflicts, as areas with little or no rule of law, are both vulnerable and conducive to crime.

On the one hand, organized international criminal activities such as drug, arms and human trafficking fuel wars by providing the conflicting parties with the financial resources necessary to sustain their war effort.

Take the case of Afghanistan. There is ample evidence that the money generated by heroin trafficking, estimated at several billions of dollars, is largely funding the Taliban insurgency and is an important factor in the Taliban’s resilience.¹

¹ “The export value of opium, morphine and heroin for Afghan traffickers is also down from \$4 billion in 2007 to \$3.4 billion in 2008.” <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=29099&Cr=Afghan&Cr1=UNODC>
<http://www.nato.int/isaf/docu/pressreleases/2009/06/pr090609-412.html>
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2008-11-27.html>

On the other hand, terrorists and organized criminals also take advantage of the absence of law and exploit countries with weak institutions as safe havens for their criminal activities, promoting radicalizing individuals, feeding corruption, engendering further instability, and threatening well beyond that country's borders.

This is precisely the case in a number of West African countries that have become transit points on the cocaine route from South America to Europe.

The examples of Afghanistan and West Africa illustrate how, in today's globalized and interconnected world, the ill effects of conflicts easily spill over to neighbouring countries; destabilize entire regions and even threaten global security.

Furthermore, conflict areas can become havens for terrorists; open new routes for illegal traffickers of all kinds and fund the activities of organized crime.

To put it simply, organized criminal activities in countries recovering from conflicts are an obstacle to sustainable peace in these countries and a threat to security worldwide.

Such countries need basic but critical police functions to be performed, such as securing borders, enforcing customs and immigration laws and combating organized crime.

By performing these missions, police peacekeepers often provide the necessary bridge from security and stability operations performed by military personnel to sustainable security, prosperity and development.

That is why we felt it was our duty to partner with the United Nations in order to help augmenting the role and capacity of police in peacekeeping operations worldwide.

This conference discusses global crime hotspots and their impact on Germany.

INTERPOL feels that every conflict area is a potential crime hotspot that can impact Germany and countries all around the world.

INTERPOL also feels that supporting police peacekeeping is a smart strategy to prevent countries emerging from conflicts to become catalysts of global crime.

A very striking example of how conflicts breed crime that affect the entire international community is the recent surge in maritime piracy off the coast of Somalia, a country torn by nearly two decades of conflict.

Without a doubt, the Gulf of Aden is one of today's global crime hotspots.

The 4-month long hijacking of German container ship Hansa Stavanger, finally released this past August, is just one striking example of how Germany, like several other countries, is affected by the conflicts prevailing in Somalia.

And here again, INTERPOL is firmly convinced that the international response needs to integrate a police component.

So far, the response has focused mainly on military action, by deploying naval forces in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia.

Bringing the navy is indeed necessary to protect vessels and arrest the pirates that threaten them. But it is not enough. Once the navy has arrested pirates, what does it do with them? In fact, there are numerous cases where pirates have been arrested and then released. When pirates are picked up by navies, their weapons are taken away, possibly also their boats, but then often they are released, either

because the legal situation is unclear and does not allow for prosecution, or because there is strong doubt about the possibility to effectively prosecute them.

One initiative aimed at overcoming prosecution challenges has been to sign bilateral or multilateral agreements with Kenya on prosecution of suspects apprehended by the U.S. or the EU. Another is the proposal to establish a special tribunal for maritime pirates. These are indeed possible solutions. But in either case, the most important obstacle will still remain: will prosecution be able to effectively prosecute the pirates?

Prosecuting the pirates requires establishing the necessary law enforcement mechanisms that will allow, just like for any other form of organized crime, for the collection and sharing of evidence and individual identification information.

After all, maritime piracy and robbery at sea are crimes committed by civilians for private ends. In this sense, they are first and foremost crimes, and the fundamental threats posed by these crimes are therefore of criminal as well as military nature.

Very concretely, from a law enforcement perspective, fighting maritime piracy implies, for example:

1. collecting identifying information from arrested pirates, such as pictures, fingerprints and DNA, sharing this information

internationally promptly and securely and checking it against global databases

2. collecting the serial numbers of confiscated weapons in order to track the weapons used by pirates
3. but most importantly tracing the flows of money to and from the pirates

Indeed, all these tasks are classical police tasks that need to be performed systematically if we are serious about combating maritime piracy in the Gulf of Aden and elsewhere around the world. For this reason, we should look, in cooperation with the military, at establishing standard operation procedures at the international level for the collection and sharing of piracy-related information.

INTERPOL, with its global and regional structure, would then be ideally positioned to coordinate this international response against maritime piracy.

INTERPOL's global operational police tools — our colour-coded notices, our secure global police communications system, our Command and Coordination Centre's 24/7 operational support capacity, our analysis capacity, and our network of National Central Bureaus (NCBs) and Regional Bureaus (including

our Regional Bureau in Nairobi) — are easily mobilized for the purpose of fighting maritime piracy.

Very concretely again, INTERPOL could, for example:

1. act as a clearing house for the collection and sharing of all information collected on piracy acts and arrested pirates
2. extend its secure global police communications network to police officers on board of military vessels (so-called “shipriders”)
3. provide regional support through its Regional Bureau in Nairobi
4. provide investigative support via analytical reports and field missions

and...

5. provide specialized training and capacity-building in evidence gathering targeting all aspects of this crime including to financial element.

Here again, a global approach is necessary in tackling crime trends generated in hotspots around the world.

Talking about global criminal hotspots, I could not go without addressing the case of Afghanistan and terrorism in general.

Terrorism is probably the topic that draws the most scepticism when it comes to the possibility of developing a multilateral response. There is widespread belief that there is little potential for global police cooperation in fighting terrorism, because these investigations are simply too sensitive to share beyond a small group of trusted allies.

INTERPOL's information exchange project on terrorism, called the Fusion Task Force project, has shown that there is potential for broader international police cooperation in this area. In 2002, INTERPOL set up its Fusion Task Force to encourage police in member countries to exchange information on terrorists. At the first Fusion Task Force meeting, only about 30 countries showed up — all for the same reason — to get the names of the other countries' suspected terrorists. All came to collect information, not to share information. Now about 7 years later, our database of suspected terrorists has grown to more than 12,000 and the number of countries participating in the Fusion Task Force has grown to 120.

All the information shared by the more than 200 dedicated contact officers participating in the project enabled INTERPOL to bring significant support to the United Nations Security Council and the 1267 Committee that is mandated with regard to the freezing of terrorist assets, the forbidding of travelling, and the embargo on arms, aimed at groups and individuals associated with Al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

In July 2005, this Committee asked for our help to verify its own watch list of persons suspected of having links with Al-Qaeda, the Taliban and related entities and to issue INTERPOL–UN Security Council Special Notices to alert law enforcement about these individuals. We checked all the information on the committee’s list and, in some instances, found that the information on the UN list was either incomplete or caused confusion.

In one instance, for an Uzbek individual named Tohir YULDASHEV, who was suspected of being related to Al-Qaeda, the UN list did not provide any essential identifying facts, such as the date and place of birth of the individual. A quick check of INTERPOL’s database revealed that he was wanted under an INTERPOL Red Notice and the INTERPOL database contained his date of birth, place of birth, a photograph, and full details of his passport. All these

elements were not on the UN list and yet of vital importance for a law enforcement worldwide.

Interestingly enough, Tohir YULDASHEV is the leader of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, an Islamist organization active in Central Asia, of which the so-called Islamic Jihad Union is an offshoot, and which was involved in what could have become the most terrible terrorist attack to have hit Germany.

On 4 September 2007, the BKA arrested three members of the Islamic Jihad Union terrorist organisation here in Germany. Before their arrest, the three terrorists were planning to carry out several simultaneous bombings, including against the Frankfurt International Airport and US-Military installations such as Ramstein Air Base. The attacks were at a very advanced preparation stage and involved peroxide-based explosives of a quantity sufficient for the construction of devices with an explosive effect potentially greater than the bombs used for Madrid and London attacks.

After the arrests, the BKA asked INTERPOL for assistance in investigating the case. A Fusion Task Force officer at INTERPOL then shared with NCB Wiesbaden quantity of information, in particular on the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan that had been shared during Fusion Task Force working group

meetings just a few months before. This information is today instrumental in the ongoing investigations of the terrorists.

This is a striking example of how global crime hotspots have a direct impact right here in Germany and how international police cooperation can help protecting the lives of German citizens.

Returning to the region around Somalia we also assess this to be a developing area for the spread of Al-Qaeda in the forthcoming years.

Up until now we have been addressing geographic based crime hotspots but there is gradually developing from the technological and travel advances that are being made a 21st century an international criminal and types of criminality that is not geographically based; and cannot be dealt with by our current bilateral and multilateral channels that focus solely on country to country investigations. I am sure that most of you will be thinking this is the cyber-criminality, well yes, that is one type of developing trend but further and newer trend of what I call “supra national” crimes and criminals will start appearing. These are crime types where there at the investigation there is no known location for the crimes or where criminals who have no national base and commit crimes across borders.

These criminals are travelling almost continuously to perpetrate their offences and make detection by law enforcement of any one or combination of states.

At a time where law enforcement resource are in short supply we must adapt to this type of crime by better co-ordinating these investigations.

Another question we, you should be considering is what level of threat does German criminality pose to the rest of the world?

Well let me give you one example, in the first six months of this year a major antivirus software company has through its regular monitoring of hundreds of millions of events ranked As mentioned by your president Germany now number 5 in the world in the top ten list of malware hosting countries, Germany being the top country in Europe.

However putting this in context German criminality remains is assessed as low as to other countries impact in global terms, but means your nation is a net suffer of organised crime.

This case brings me to the last topic that I would like to discuss before I leave the floor. This may sound strange coming from a representative of an international organisation speaking at an international conference, but having sat in your positions over the years and having had time to reflect on these experiences we sometimes see issues in a blinkered manner. If we solely focus on the international element crime, criminals and terrorist important as it is that we do, then we miss the ones that come at us from within.

Out of the three suspects arrested by the BKA, two, including the leader of the plot, were born in Germany, had converted to Islam and later attended terrorist training camps in Pakistan run by Islamic Jihad Union. Given the demographic makeup of Germany this is to be expected. Internal radicalisation is a growing threat in many countries as are home grown criminals of all kinds.

This reminds us of one fact we should always have in mind — that no matter how we look at the dangerousness of criminals and terrorists in crime hotspots around the world, the fact will always remain that the large part of crimes committed in our countries is committed by criminals and terrorists who are our country mates, by men and women who live in our countries and who are our neighbours. These I would say are an even more difficult policing issue to deal with.

This raises a number of essential questions and underlines the fundamental importance of the every-day work done by the street officer in our countries.

But, as the case of the terrorist plot also clearly demonstrates, in today's world, combating home-grown criminals and terrorists also requires police to reach out for the assistance of their colleagues well beyond one's country and region.

One of the major strategies to combat these transnational and supra national crimes is the effective and efficient police cooperation, information and intelligence sharing. This supported by financial assistance to those areas to instigate frontline measures to reduce the problems at source have a great potential for success than most other strategies. As you have heard from the speakers at this conference this is the direction Germany is taking

INTERPOL, as the only global law enforcement organization, has the infrastructure and the tools to bring this vital assistance all the way to officers in the field.

This vertical integration is what INTERPOL likes to call ‘21st century policing for 21st century challenges’. Challenges we face together.

Thank you very much.