



Bundeskriminalamt



7th Research Conference on Organised Crime

The different Faces of Organised Crime

in Wiesbaden on 8 – 9 October 2014

Mafia and Anti-Mafia in Eurasia: the Specificity of Post-Soviet Georgia

Dr. Gavin Slade

Criminologist, Research Fellow, Free University Berlin,
Dahlem Research School

Curriculum vitae

Gavin Slade received a doctoral degree in criminology from the University of Oxford. He has extensive experience researching organized crime in the post-Soviet region. He has written many academic articles on issues of crime and corruption in this region. He has published a book with Oxford University Press on the success of the anti-mafia campaign in the republic of Georgia and the dynamics of the groups that it targeted. From 2012-2014, Slade was Assistant Professor of Criminology at the University of Toronto, Canada. In 2014, Slade won a research fellowship at the Freie University, Berlin to study anti-organized crime policy and its connection to prison reform in Eurasia.

Abstract

Over the last five years, anti-organized crime crackdowns across Europe have disrupted 'Russian mafia' activities. On closer inspection, many people caught in these sweeping arrests from France, to Greece, to Spain and Austria have been of Georgian origin. Meanwhile, in Moscow recent assassinations of Mafiosi have mainly featured conflicts between Georgian groups. Moreover, of the specific type of post-Soviet godfathers known as *vory-v-zakone* (thieves-in-law), around one third are Georgian, a highly disproportionate amount for a country that made up only 2% of the Soviet population. What is about Georgia that makes it so central to post-Soviet organized crime? Based on eight years of research, this presentation will provide an answer to this question. It will give an exposition of the fight with organized crime in Georgia, including unique anti-mafia legislation, and link this to why Georgia has 'exported' so many of its criminals to Russia and Western Europe in the last ten years.