

INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL COOPERATION IN COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME

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Abstract:

Organized crime represents a pervasive global challenge, capturing the focus of both international and national spheres. As a persistent and evolving issue, nations engage in extensive collaboration to counteract and mitigate its proliferation through a myriad of strategies, tools, and mechanisms. Judicial cooperation, involving the concerted efforts of judicial authorities from various nations, is pivotal in addressing organized crime.

This collaboration seeks to harmonize criminal procedures ranging from the investigation phase to the final sentencing, thereby ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice. Such cooperation necessitates the synchronization of judicial authorities to establish consistent standards, encompassing the extradition of suspects, and providing judicial assistance in evidence collection and crime attribution.

Keywords: *Illegal Trafficking; Drugs; Combat; Extradition of Criminals; Judicial Assistance.*

INTRODUCTION:

The apparatus of international cooperation in the realm of organized crime encompasses both substantive and procedural measures, delineated through international treaties, legal instruments, and national legislation, targeting the multifaceted nature of transnational organized crimes within administrative, policing, and judicial dimensions.

This includes the exchange of information, methodologies of judicial investigation, and the provision of legal and technical support, such as the accumulation of evidence and the testimony of witnesses. Judicial procedures involve the extradition, confiscation, and immobilization of assets derived from international organized crime. The spectrum of international cooperation in combating such crime spans across security, legal, judicial, and administrative domains, with the ultimate aim of fortifying the public security of the global community.

This cooperation is not confined to the pursuit and prosecution of suspects but also encompasses preventive and suppressive actions against transnational organized crime, all while upholding the rights of the accused and victims, and maintaining the sovereignty of states.

International judicial cooperation thus emerges as a cornerstone mechanism in the fight against a range of illicit activities, including international terrorism, unauthorized trafficking of arms and narcotics, human trafficking, money laundering, currency forgery, and other offenses perpetrated by criminal organizations or entities.

In this context, cooperation signifies the aid and support extended by one nation to another in prosecuting criminals, encompassing preventive measures against global criminality, the compilation of evidence, and necessitating resources and efforts that exceed the capabilities of any single nation's legal framework, unless bolstered by the legal apparatus of other nations.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified on November 15, 2000, along with its subsequent protocols, stands as a critical international reference in the domain of judicial cooperation. These documents articulate principles aimed at amplifying international collaboration and legal assistance in criminal investigations, the gathering, exchange, and analysis of evidence pertaining to organized crime, money laundering, corruption, and grave offenses, with a particular focus on the extradition of criminals.

Hence, this study raises the question: To what extent are the judicial mechanisms of international cooperation, primarily through mutual legal assistance and criminal extradition, effective in combating transnational organized crime?



First Section: Mutual Legal Assistance

Criminal law scholars have given considerable attention to mutual legal assistance to combat transnational crime and address legal deficiencies aiding criminal organizations.

Mutual legal assistance in criminal matters is an effective tool for combating crime, facilitating cooperation in criminal procedures, balancing the state's right to exercise its criminal jurisdiction within its territory, and imposing punishment.

First: Definition of Mutual Legal Assistance

In the international realm, mutual legal assistance embodies the legal authority vested in the criminal justice administration entities of a nation, empowering them to execute specific actions to detect and probe criminal activities within their purview, in collaboration with their international counterparts.

This legal framework encompasses a broad spectrum of investigative and judicial procedures aimed at apprehending offenders, locating them, amassing evidence, summoning and interrogating witnesses, soliciting expert insights, or procuring essential data to streamline the investigative and judicial proceedings. Such comprehensive measures are designed to secure all necessary legal components for adjudicating on the allegations, determining the course of either dismissal, acquittal, or referral for trial and statutory sanctions¹. Furthermore, mutual legal assistance encompasses any judicial maneuver by one state to augment the prosecutorial endeavors of another state concerning a criminal offense.²

The primary objective of mutual legal assistance is the acquisition of evidence pertinent to a particular case, thereby capacitating a nation to initiate prosecution against the suspect. A critical ancillary aim is to facilitate the legal process for confiscating assets derived from unlawful activities.

This framework necessitates that each participating state, acting on behalf of another, executes any legal procedure associated with an extant case, notably the examination of witnesses, assimilation of expert evaluations, conducting of inspections, and the administration of oaths.

The global criminal policy sphere has accorded significant emphasis to mutual legal assistance within the ambit of international agreements, heralding it as a principal conduit for collaboration against diverse manifestations of international criminality.

This global legal consensus impels nations to render assistance and synchronize efforts to effectuate essential actions, including the aggregation of evidence, safeguarding of witnesses, and provision of procedural assurances. It also advocates for the abolition of the refusal of mutual legal assistance based on the principle of non-duality of criminality.³

Secondly: Forms of Mutual Legal Assistance

Mutual legal assistance in international cooperation in criminal matters takes one of three forms: information exchange, procedure transfer, or judicial representation.

A. Information Exchange:

This facet of international judicial assistance entails the provision of documentary data and evidentiary materials, as solicited by a foreign judicial authority in the course of investigating a cybercrime.

This assistance framework is prominently featured in numerous international agreements, such as the United Nations Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, with the latter's Article 8 underscoring the

¹ Ahmad Ibrahim Mustafa Suleiman, "Terrorism and Organized Crime: Criminalization and Ways of Confrontation," *Dar Al-Fikr Al-Arabi*, Alexandria, 2006, p. 350.

² Nadia Omrani, "International Judicial Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking," *Studies and Research Journal of the Arab Magazine in Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol. 14, Issue 3, University of Djelfa, Algeria, 2022, p. 108.

³ Ahmad Ibrahim Mustafa Suleiman, *op. cit.*, p. 350.



imperative of information exchange. Similarly, Article 1 of the Riyadh Arab Agreement for Judicial Cooperation echoes this sentiment.⁴

Various bilateral agreements also embody this cooperative mechanism, including those ratified by Algeria, notably Articles 2 and 15(1) of the judicial cooperation agreement in criminal matters with Spain, inked in Madrid, and Article 3 of the accord on security and crime combat with France, finalized in Algeria.⁵

Algerian legislation has actively embraced measures to curb cybercrime and chase down its culprits, acknowledging the critical role of information exchange concerning electronic evidence. Article 17 of Law 09-04, dedicated to the prevention and combat of crimes related to information and communication technology, necessitates responses to requests for information exchange or any preventive actions in line with pertinent international treaties, bilateral agreements, and the reciprocity principle.

B. Procedure Transfer:

The procedure transfer mechanism facilitates the transition of investigative, inquiry, and examination processes pertaining to a cybercrime, or its specific aspects, from the nation of its occurrence to another state whose interests are also impacted, contingent upon the satisfaction of certain conditions.

These include the principle of dual criminality, where the act under scrutiny constitutes a crime in both the requesting and the requested nations, and the legality of the proposed procedures, which ought to be established in the laws of both countries and significantly contribute to the elucidation of the truth.⁶

This mode of judicial assistance is recognized in various international agreements, such as the United Nations Model Treaty on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the latter acknowledging this procedure in Article 21. Additionally, the Gulf Cooperation Council's model legislation on legal and judicial cooperation incorporates the procedure transfer in Article 16.⁷

C. Judicial Representation:

Judicial representation stands as a pivotal approach within international judicial cooperation, surmounting the hurdle of enforcing one nation's criminal procedure laws for crimes perpetrated within the jurisdiction of another.⁸

It involves a formal request from one contracting state to another, urging the latter to conduct any judicial act within its territory and on behalf of the requesting state concerning an existing case, particularly the hearing of witnesses, reception of expert reports, undertaking discussions and examinations, and administering oaths.

Hence, judicial representation permits a court to commission another court within a foreign sovereign territory to carry out investigative or other judicial proceedings on its behalf, necessary for adjudicating the case, which it cannot execute due to the non-presence of the accused, all

⁴ Layla Osmani, Souhaib Souheil Ghazi Zamel, "International Judicial Assistance as a Mechanism for Obtaining Electronic Evidence," *Law, Society and Authority Magazine*, Vol. 09, Issue 02, University of Oran, 2020, p. 20.

⁵ Presidential Decree No. 04-23 dated February 7, 2004, on ratification of the agreement signed between Algeria and Spain on judicial cooperation in criminal matters: *Official Gazette of the Algerian Republic*, Issue 08, p. 8.

⁶ Article 32, Paragraph 5 of the Arab Convention on Combating Information Technology Crimes.

⁷ The United Nations Model Treaty on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters was adopted by General Assembly Resolution 45/118 dated December 14, 1990.

⁸ Amin Abdel Rahman Mahmoud Abbas, "Judicial Representation in Criminal Procedures: A Comparative Study," *Dar Al-Fikr Al-Jami'i*, Egypt, p. 393.



based on the agreements established between the involved parties, with the objective of unveiling the truth.⁹

Second Section: Extradition of Criminals

Extradition stands as a pivotal mechanism within international judicial cooperation, aimed at dispensing justice and deterring criminals whose actions transcend national boundaries, engaging in severe criminal activities. Its significance is rooted in precluding such individuals from seeking sanctuary and exploiting the legal frameworks of the nations to which they abscond.

First: Definition of the Extradition System

The concept of extradition lacks a uniform definition among scholars, attributed to the varied legal nature and justifications for its implementation. It is variously defined as a system wherein a state cedes an individual within its territory to another state, upon request, to face prosecution for a crime punishable under its laws or to carry out a judicially imposed sentence.¹⁰

Alternatively, it is described as the process of arrest and transfer within the state sought for extradition, or as a contractual arrangement among two or more countries, facilitating the return of a person who has transgressed the laws of one country, to be penalized therein.¹¹

The International Criminal Court's statute articulates extradition in Article 102 as the transference of an individual from one state to another, predicated on a treaty, agreement, or national legislation.¹²

Moreover, Interpol's briefing delineates extradition as the act of a requested state surrendering an individual within its domain to another state seeking to prosecute them for an attributed crime or to implement a judicial verdict.¹³

It is critical to distinguish between extradition and repatriation of individuals; the former presupposes that the individual to be extradited is implicated or convicted of a crime within the jurisdiction of the requesting state and resides within another state's territory, which is then solicited for extradition. In contrast, repatriation involves a state's plea to a foreign nation to return individuals who are nationals of the requesting state and are sentenced therein for prosecution.¹⁴

Accordingly, the extradition system embodies an international cooperation framework, whereby the requested state relinquishes an individual on its soil to another state (the requesting state) for prosecution of the alleged crimes or to enforce a judicial sentence.

The legal nature of the extradition system is a subject of debate, oscillating between being perceived as a sovereign act, a judicial endeavor, or an amalgamation of both. Advocates of the dual-nature perspective regard extradition as a judicial act, manifest in the judiciary's execution of international arrest warrants and extradition decisions to thwart the fugitive's evasion of justice,

⁹ Youssef Barkouk, "Mutual Judicial Assistance to Confront Cyber Crimes," *Al-Basair Law Studies Journal*, Vol. 01, Issue 01, University of Ain Temouchent, 2021, p. 96.

¹⁰ Mohamed El Fadil, "Lectures on Extradition of Criminals," Institute of Arab Studies, League of Arab States, p. 57.

¹¹ Suleiman Abdel Moneim, "Lessons in International Criminal Law," New University Publishing and Distribution House, 2000, p. 88.

¹² The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 1998.

¹³ Yasser Mohamed Al-Jabour, "Extradition or Surrender of Criminals in International Conventions and the Statute of the International Criminal Court," Master's thesis in Public Law, Middle East University, Jordan, 2011, p. 70.

¹⁴ Khaled Hamed Mustafa, "Extradition as a Mechanism of International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters," *Arab Journal for Security Studies and Training*, Volume 32, Issue 65, Riyadh, 2016, p. 220.



and as a sovereign act, where the ultimate verdict to extradite or deny rests with the political authority.¹⁵

Second: Conditions of Extradition

The procedures for extradition are dictated by the domestic legislation of the requesting state, allowing each nation the autonomy to specify the conditions under which extradition can be contested, and determining whether such refusal is mandatory or discretionary, in alignment with its international legal commitments.

States typically outline extradition processes, particularly in bilateral agreements, delineating the requisite conditions for extradition within the ambit of international crime combat cooperation. For extradition to be enacted, certain conditions must be fulfilled; upon their satisfaction, extradition is compelled, failing which, it is not executed. These extradition prerequisites are enunciated and concurred upon in specific national statutes and international accords.

A. General Conditions Concerning the Person to be Extradited:

1. Pertaining to the status of the individual facing extradition, it is a general principle that states refrain from extraditing their citizens. An individual sought for extradition for trial or to serve a sentence in the competent state may possess international immunities, such as those held by foreign heads of state, diplomats, and military personnel stationed within the state's borders, who are entitled to judicial non-prosecution unless their status is revoked. Should these persons perpetrate international offenses, they come under the purview of the International Criminal Court, epitomizing the principle that the official status of criminals is irrelevant.¹⁶

2. As for the nationality of the person to be extradited, it represents the political and legal linkage between an individual and their nation. In the realm of international relations, domestic laws, and constitutional provisions, it is a standard practice not to extradite a state's nationals, thereby safeguarding equitable legal treatment that might be compromised under foreign judicial systems.

B. Conditions Related to the Crime Justifying Extradition:

The crime for which extradition is permitted must be of a certain level of seriousness and importance. Extradition procedures are complex, costly, and time-consuming, so they should be reserved for significant and serious crimes.

It is inappropriate to engage the judicial apparatus of both the requesting and requested states in trivial matters or crimes that do not result in significant public harm, or in behaviors where the private harm outweighs the public harm (such as defamation, insult, and contempt). Regarding the method used in conventions, treaties, and domestic laws to define crimes eligible for extradition, there are three approaches:

- The first and oldest method involves listing all the crimes subject to extradition explicitly and in detail within the treaty, agreement, or national legislation.
- The second method replaces the detailed enumeration of crimes with a criterion based on the type and severity of punishment.
- The third method combines the first two, blending a list of crimes with criteria based on the severity of the punishment.¹⁷

Concerning money laundering, for instance, which is considered a crime with public rather than private damage, the Vienna Convention states in Article 6, Paragraph 1, that this article (regulating

¹⁵ Asma Bouakaz, Dalila M'baraki, "Interpol and Its Role in Implementing Extradition Agreements in Combating Organized Crime," *Al-Bahith Journal for Academic Studies*, Vol. 08, Issue 03, 2021, p. 123.

¹⁶ Lila Lamraboui, Wasila Bouhia, "The System of Extraditing Criminals and Its Role in Activating the Rules of International Criminal Justice," *Journal of Legal and Social Sciences*, Zian Achour University of Djelfa, Algeria, Vol. 8, Issue 01, 2023, p. 1782.

¹⁷ Mohamed El Fadil, "International Cooperation in Combating Crime," Damascus, Al-Dawari Press, 1988, pp. 91.



the extradition of offenders) applies to crimes determined by the parties according to Paragraph 1 of Article 3 of the Convention.

Similarly, Article 6, Paragraph 2 states that each crime covered by this article is deemed an extraditable offense in any existing extradition treaty among the parties, which commit to including such crimes as extraditable offenses in any future extradition treaties among them.

Article 6, Paragraph 3 stipulates that if a party, which conditions extradition on the existence of a treaty, receives an extradition request from another party with which it has no extradition treaty, it may consider this Convention as the legal basis for extradition concerning any crime covered by this article. Parties requiring detailed legislation to regard this Convention as a legal basis for extradition should consider enacting such legislation.

Following the same principle, the Palermo Convention in Article 16, Paragraph 1, mentions that the article covers crimes under this Convention, especially those involving an organized criminal group as referred to in Article 3, Paragraphs 1(a) or (b), and the presence of the person sought for extradition within the territory of the requesting state party, provided that the crime for which extradition is sought is punishable under the domestic law of both the requesting and requested state parties.

Article 16, Paragraph 2 elaborates that if an extradition request involves several serious crimes, some of which are not covered by this article, the requested state party may also apply this article to the latter crimes.

Article 16, Paragraph 3 asserts that each crime covered by any extradition treaty in force between the state parties shall be considered an extraditable offense, committing the state parties to include such crimes as extraditable offenses in any extradition treaties they conclude, indicating that crimes like money laundering should be included in any extradition treaty concluded among these states.¹⁸

Notably, both the Vienna and Palermo Conventions adopt the method of enumerating crimes that permit extradition.

C. Principle of Specialty:

Whether extradition is for prosecuting a person or executing a sentence, the principle of specialty must be followed. This principle dictates that the requesting state cannot prosecute or punish the extradited individual except for the specific crime for which they were extradited, and cannot levy charges for previous crimes.

This principle is among the oldest related to extradition, referenced in many ancient extradition treaties, including the 1844 treaty between France and Luxembourg. It has been incorporated into some national legislations, such as the British legislation of 1870.

The principle of specialty has become so entrenched that its absence in treaties does not prevent its application, as it has evolved into an international custom that states adhere to, ensuring that a person is not prosecuted for a crime other than the one for which they were extradited.

This fundamental principle, derived from international custom, obligates the authorities of the requesting state to respect the international treaty concluded between the parties regarding extradition, which prohibits any coercion on the person sought beyond what is allowed under this treaty¹⁹. The severity of applying the principle of specialty in extradition is mitigated by the following:

- The consent of the extradited person to be prosecuted or investigated for other crimes, provided that the criminal's consent is explicit and voluntarily given before the authorities of the requested state.
- The explicit agreement of the requested state to an extradition request for additional facts if formally presented by the requesting state.

¹⁸ Farid Alwach, "The System of Extraditing Criminals in International Conventions," *Journal of Legal and Political Studies*, Vol. 02, Issue 05, Amar Thelidji University of Laghouat, Algeria, 2017, p. 404.

¹⁹ Jean Dumont: *Extradition*. op.cit.. p. 25.



➤ The possibility of prosecuting the person after their extradition in the territory of the requesting state for any past crime, provided this occurs within a month of their release for the crime for which they were extradited, as long as they have not left the territory of the requesting state.²⁰

The principle of specialty is a well-established norm in most international treaties and national legislations, as indicated by the French extradition law of 1927 and Article 14 of the European Extradition Convention, which states that the requesting state cannot prosecute the person sought except for the specific crime for which extradition was requested, without bringing any new charges or executing any punishment for a previous crime. This principle is also referenced in Article 14 of the Model Treaty on Extradition.

C. Dual Criminality:

This condition entails that the act committed by the person sought for extradition must constitute a crime under the laws of both the requesting and requested states²¹. Dual criminality does not require identical legal descriptions but merely that the act falls under the criminal provisions, as affirmed in the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 2003.

In other words, the elements and legal description of the crime must be similar enough between the legislations of the two states to warrant extradition for the criminal act. The requested state is responsible for verifying whether the conditions of dual criminality are met under its domestic law and that of the requesting state.

D. Nature of the Crimes and Their Punishment:

The crime must be of a certain level of seriousness or gravity. Article 2 of the Model Treaty on Extradition specifies the crimes eligible for extradition²², which are those punishable under the laws of both parties with a deprivation of liberty of at least one to two years or a more severe penalty. If the extradition request relates to a fugitive convict, approval for extradition is only given if the remaining sentence is at least four to six months.²³

Article 1/6 of the United Nations Convention of 1988 defines the crimes requiring extradition, exclusively listing drug production, manufacture, extraction, preparation, offering for sale, distribution, selling, delivery in any form, brokerage, transit, transportation, importation, and exportation.

Third: Extradition Procedures

A. Extradition Request and Its Attachments:

Any state must notify the requested state through a formal request of the person it wishes to extradite for prosecution, accompanied by a set of documents necessary for completing the extradition process. Article 54 of the Maghreb Arab Union Convention explicitly requires a written request, though this requirement is not absolute and may be waived in urgent cases through fax or telephone.²⁴

Algerian legislation requires that the request be accompanied by the necessary documents and evidence for accepting the request, whether during prosecution or trial, without specifying the types of documents and evidence²⁵. The request can be sent through the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), by mail, or by any written means.

²⁰ Abdel Rahim Sadiki: "Extradition of Criminals in International Law," A Comparative Study of French, Canadian, Swiss, and Rwandan Laws, Egyptian Journal of International Law, Published by the Egyptian Society for International Law, Vol. 39, 1983, pp. 113-114.

²¹ Nadia Omrani, *op. cit.*, p. 11.

²² Tarek Abdel Aziz Hamdi, "International Criminal and Civil Responsibility for International Terrorism Crimes," Dar Al-Kutub Al-Qanuniyyah, 2008, without edition, p. 321.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 774.

²⁴ Lila Lamraboui, Wasila Bouhia, *op. cit.*, p. 1782.

²⁵ Article 70 of Order No. 66-155 dated June 8, 1966, concerning the code of criminal procedure, as amended, particularly by Order No. 15-02 dated July 23, 2015, Law No. 19-10 dated December 11, 2019, Order No. 20-04 dated August 30, 2020, Official Journal No. 51, and Order No. 21-11 dated



B. Submission of the Request:

The methodologies adopted by states for submitting extradition requests and processing extraditions vary. They may proceed via diplomatic channels between the ministries of justice and foreign affairs, a practice embraced by Algerian legislation under Article 702 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

This method is characterized by its administrative nature, offering expediency in resolving requests and eschewing protracted, complex procedures that entail substantial costs²⁶. Alternatively, the submission can occur through a reciprocal system between the justice departments of the involved countries or via a hybrid approach involving both the executive and judicial authorities.

C. Prosecutorial Follow-up by the Requesting State:

Upon receipt of the extradition request and accompanying documents, the requested state examines the request through the appropriate channels. This leads to the monitoring and potential detention of the individual sought for extradition until a decision on the request is reached.²⁷ Although this decision is provisional, it typically does not allow for any challenge unless the legally specified duration for temporary arrest warrants expires, potentially infringing on the defendant's right to appeal.²⁸ Following the examination of the extradition request by the requesting state, the request may be broadly approved or denied, resulting in the issuance of a decision to either accept or reject the extradition.

Conclusion:

Despite the widespread acknowledgment of the gravity of organized crime and the concerted endeavors to devise legal, judicial, and security frameworks to counter it, numerous hurdles hinder effective collaboration, thus facilitating the persistence of criminal syndicates.

A significant impediment is the absence of a universally accepted definition of organized crime and an ambiguous delineation of the behaviors that constitute such crime. This ambiguity erodes the principle of legal certainty, which mandates that prosecution should only proceed for actions that are clearly defined in law with established penalties.

There is a dichotomy in the response of states; some deny the presence of organized crime within their boundaries, while others downplay its importance or regard it as merely a domestic concern. This leads to a lack of acknowledgment and action, thereby thwarting initiatives aimed at addressing this menace.

Additionally, the efficacy of certain international conventions or their clauses is debatable. For example, certain nations leverage Article 2(7) of the United Nations Charter and Article 4 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, advocating for state sovereignty, as grounds to reject international cooperation in eradicating organized crime within their jurisdictions.

Furthermore, the principle of bank secrecy serves as a substantial barrier, obstructing the scrutiny of financial deposits and transforming financial institutions into sanctuaries for illicit capital. The challenge is compounded by the inadequate surveillance of criminal operations, which are often characterized by sophisticated and advanced methodologies, outpacing the capabilities of law enforcement agencies.

To enhance the fight against organized crime, it is advisable to:

- ✓ Encourage states to adopt bilateral agreements on this matter.

August 25, 2021, and Decision No. 389 Q M D /21 dated August 24, 2021, Official Journal No. 65. 26.

²⁶ Arezki Hanad Abelaoui, "Extradition of Criminals in the International Treaty System and Algerian Legislation," Doctoral Thesis, Faculty of Law, University of Algiers, 2009, p. 260.

²⁷ Sameh El Mohamady, "International Cooperation in the Field of Criminal Extradition," National Criminal Magazine, Volume 26, Issue 2, National Center for Social and Criminal Research, Cairo, 2013, p. 95.

²⁸ Faisal Ben Zahaf, "Extradition of Perpetrators of International Crimes," Doctoral Thesis, University of Oran, 2011-2012, p. 234.



- ✓ Intensify international efforts to define and confine the behaviors constituting organized crime.
- ✓ Utilize technological advancements to control organized crime.
- ✓ Acknowledge the phenomenon of organized crime as a global threat, not merely an internal issue.
- ✓ Reevaluate and amend the restrictive provisions in international legal and judicial cooperation agreements to broaden, not limit, the scope of mutual legal assistance, emphasizing that judicial assistance among states is not a sovereignty infringement but an exercise of it.
- ✓ Cut off funding sources for criminal organizations.
- ✓ Lift banking secrecy and establish intelligence and surveillance bodies to monitor banking operations.
- ✓ Enact domestic legislation criminalizing organized crime in line with international conventions.

Given the grave threat of organized crime to international society and state security, intensified international cooperation and enhanced international judicial collaboration are imperative for effectively combating this complex and multifaceted form of crime. Individual efforts alone are insufficient; a comprehensive and collaborative international approach is essential for eradicating organized crime.

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