

Transnational Organized Crime and Future Threats in Bangladesh: Comparative Combating Measures

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ABSTRACT Bangladesh is a South Asian country having become independent recently and confronting countless crimes, and transnational coordinated crime is one of them. With the proliferation of criminal associations and the accessibility of present-day digitalization, the level of transnational danger has increased in an alarming way, where just a coordinated and elevated degree of globally approved cooperation can resolve the issue. Transnational organized crime increases border tensions and danger also. In this paper, I will focus on a few explicit transnational crimes occurring in Bangladesh and how those can be a future danger to the existence of this country. Border hostility, arms dealing, drug trafficking, and illegal human exploitation have been persistent security dangers to the country. I will likewise concentrate on some combating measures taken by the EU to control transnational organized crimes and a comparative discussion of how Bangladesh ought to step up measures to control such crimes in the future.

KEYWORDS transnational organized crime, arms smuggling, drug dealing, human trafficking, combating measures

1. Introduction

Crime has been an unsolvable issue starting from the dawn of human culture. Since the ancient period till the advancement of the state idea, crime has had many appearances and transnational organized crime is one of them. From the term transnational, it tends to be expected that it is movement including different nations and various legal jurisdictions. It was begun with the introduction of the idea of state security which is the securitization of the state's residents and their assets against foreign and internal dangers.¹ Notwithstanding, this new security threat is called transnational organized crime, which is not just a security issue it has also turned into a 'fundamental' issue for the world.

In 1990, researchers and policymakers stood enough to be noticed on transnational crime and security when huge political and monetary

¹ David A. Baldwin, *Theories of International Relations*, (London: Routledge publication; 2008), 481.

advancements were starting to begin after the lengthy impact of the cold war.² In the Asian subcontinent nations, the transnational security issue has turned into a difficult problem for legislators and policy-makers.³ Transnational organized crime has the nature of being carried out cross-border. Illegal exploitation, arms dealing, human trafficking, and different types of transnational security dangers are present which has raised tensions all over the world.

Transnational or cross-border violations essentially influence the security of the borders. Furthermore, they obliterate the improvement of the market and economy as well as hamper political solidness, and promote corruption. This creates transnational security dangers as a result of limitations at public level regulation and furthermore, the absence of transnational cooperative endeavors to provide the required managerial and lawful component. For instance, drug dealing issues in Latin America have a huge impact on the USA and other kinds transnational organized crimes in South Asia are both a shocking danger to the locale as well as to the world.⁴

Bangladesh is a South Asian state and it is connected with different nations along its boundary. There are constantly so many unlawful cross-border instances of unlawful activities along the BD-Myanmar border.⁵ These are illegal exploitation, drug dealing, and smuggling of products which are expanding the dangers to the security of the country. In the past few years, threats of unlawful narcotic trade have risen in the border regions, since the drug use rate is expanding decisively in Bangladesh, which poses a colossal danger to the young generation as well as public safety and national security. For mitigating security dangers, Bangladesh should take quick measures, otherwise the fate of this nation will potentially be put into potential harm's way. In the most recent couple of years, Bangladesh has adopted public official legislation to diminish such crimes, in 2000 Bangladesh entered into a global convention for cooperation in combating organized crime, namely, the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention). This paper is primarily planned to concentrate on the security dangers that emerged from transnational crimes and their effect on Bangladesh and further measures that ought to be taken by the legislature of Bangladesh associated with European and other global instruments for combating organized crime. The main aim of this study is to focus on the already risky situation of Bangladesh because of its geographical position in terms of border crimes and

² David Felsen and Akis Kalaitzidis, "A Historical Overview of Transnational Crime," in *Handbook of Transnational Crime & Justice*, ed. Philip Reichel (London: SAGE publication, 2005), 3–19.

³ Daniel K. Inouye, "Transnational Security Threats in Asia-Pacific Region", Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, August 12, 2005, <https://apcss.org/archived-publications-n/>.

⁴ Caroline Ziemke-Dickens, *Asian Transnational Security Challenge: Emerging Trends & Regional Visions* (Sydney: Macquarie University press, 2010).

⁵ Crime Statistics at Bangladesh Myanmar Border, Teknaf Police Station, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, (2014–2015).

what future dangers would be awaiting the country if those crimes were not handled firmly. The study is also aimed at discussing the steps already taken by the Bangladesh government to fight transnational crimes and to what extent they are successful with a comparative discussion of measures that the EU is already using to handle those crimes. Therefore, there will be some suggestions based on the author's opinion on what the Bangladesh government should do to get rid of this future risk.

2. What is Transnational Organized Crime

Transnational organized crime is an issue firmly connected with security, peace and lawfulness. The United Nations (UN) has characterized transnational crime "as offenses whose origin, avoidance and direct or indirect impacts include more than one country".⁶ The crime can be isolated from the other international crimes. Simultaneously, worldwide regulation could be applied to recognize and prosecute transnational crimes and the culprits. Such crimes include, the intersection of the boundaries of any state unlawfully, operating unlawful organizations for tax evasion, showing dangers to the law enforcing offices, narcotics, and arms dealings alongside illegal human trafficking.⁷ Transnational crime is characterized in numerous ways, for example, it includes the endeavor of committing many crimes along the borders and disregarding the guidelines of state administrations and regulation authorizing organizations. Thus, these violations cause danger at the national level and worldwide.

According to United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, there are four special characteristics of crimes that render them transnational crime. They are the following- a) the crime is committed in more than one state, b) the crime is committed in one state but a substantial part of its preparation, planning, direction, or control is organized in a different state, c) the criminal or criminals commit the crime in one state but come from some active criminal group from another or several other states, d) although the crime is committed within it has a substantial impact on another state's borders or questions the sovereignty of another state.⁸

Basically, crime means any action or inaction which is a violation of the legal regulation and entails an obligatory punishment. Transnational crime incorporates every type the component of general crime, however, extraordinarily, it incorporates infringement of various state regulations and

⁶ Paul J. Smith, *Terrorism and Violence in Southeast Asia: Transnational Challenges to States and Regional Stability* (New York: Routledge publication, 2005).

⁷ Md. Harun Or Rashid, "A Critical Study on Transnational Organized Crime Along the Bangladesh-Myanmar Border," *International Journal of Sciences: Basic and Applied Research* (IJSBAR), <https://www.gssrr.org/index.php/JournalOfBasicAndApplied/article/view/11395>.

⁸ United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime: adopted by UN general assembly, 8 January 2001, A/RES/55/25, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3boof55bo.html>.

guidelines. Transnational crimes are an infringement of regulation that include more than one country in their preparation, execution, or effect. These offenses are different from other crimes in their worldwide effects by nature of their workings.⁹ Transnational organized crime can sabotage a democracy of government, disturb unrestricted economies, diminish public resources, and restrain the improvement of stable social orders. In doing so, national and worldwide criminals compromise security and become threats to nationals.

The nature and patterns of transnational crime are unique in relation to international crime as it fundamentally and definitely incorporates financial advantage. It plainly contrasts with different types of crimes. For instance, transnational crimes are identified from international crimes which include violations against humanity that might or might not include multiple nations. Security dangers that emerged from transnational organized crime likewise vary from the para-military or local army exercises over the borders. Transnational security issues can be characterized as non-military dangers across borders and either undermine the political and social trustworthiness of a country or the security of that country's occupants.¹⁰

Transnational crimes can be assembled into three general classifications i) ones including any arrangement of illegal products like drug dealing, dealing with stolen property, arms dealing, and money laundering, ii) unlawful operations like sex business and human trafficking, and iii) invasion of business and government, such as misrepresentation, racketeering, tax evasion, and corruption influencing various nations.¹¹ In view of the above, it may be very well defined that transnational organized crime is a borderless crime which essentially incorporates illegal trades, such as pirating and smuggling of specific products and objects.

3. Drug Dealing

Drug dealing is a global issue nowadays on each side of the world. Indeed, even developed nations of Europe or the USA have to deal with issues of such crimes. In South Asian countries consuming narcotics by the youth generation is an enormous danger to the future country. In the past few years, drug dealing has been the most serious transnational problem in South Asian nations.¹²

As a South Asian country, Bangladesh is also experiencing the crime of drug dealing. Drugs are such substances that can seriously endanger the entire

⁹ Jay Albanese, *Transnational Organized Crime* (London: Oxford University Press, 2009).

¹⁰ Daniel K. Inouye, "Transnational Security Threats in Asia-Pacific Region", *Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies*, August 12, 2005, <https://apcss.org/archived-publications-n/>.

¹¹ Albanese, *Transnational Organized Crime*.

¹² Emmers Ralf, "The Threat of Transnational Crime in South Asia: Drug Trafficking, Human Smuggling and Sea Piracy," *UNISCI Discussion Papers*, no. 2 (May 2003): University of Madrid, Spain, 1–11.

country with their gradual influence, from which it is not even possible to recover quickly. Topographically, Bangladesh consistently stands in a hazardous position due to its boundary regions. The border with Myanmar and India made it an exceptionally alluring point for drug dealers to enter into the trans-border business sectors. The boundary was utilized for dealing with marihuana, opium, heroin, ganja, pethidine, Yaba, and other psychotropic substances like methamphetamines and different kinds of narcotic drugs.

Due to low border security, powerless checkpoints at the port regions, and low specialized help to identify and detect smuggled items in Bangladesh, the area has turned into a significant route for dealers to carry their drugs into global business sectors. After the Rohingya emergency issue in 2017, drug dealing has risen immensely on the Bangladesh border. Bangladesh has already gained critical headway in drug control from the Department of Narcotic Control from 2005 to 2007. In 2018 the Bangladeshi government passed a new amendment to the Narcotics Control Act 2018 with some corrections from the Act of 1990 in order to diminish such drug dealing crimes within the border region or any part of Bangladesh. Customs authorities alongside Special Forces and police have implemented immense border control measures at the passageway and exit points of the country. As Bangladesh is located at a truly weak point, which is in the middle of the two significant routes of pirating, therefore preventing transnational organized crime is quite hard for the country on her own. A joint endeavor of help activity through common agreement and measures can assist with decreasing the danger.

4. Smuggling of Fire Arms

Bangladesh is a newly born country, in 1971 it gained freedom from Pakistan. Topographically and politically Bangladesh is a vital point for transnational organized criminals as they utilize this country as the passageway for their illegal purpose. One of the reasons is that Bangladesh is a South Asian state encompassing a border with India and Myanmar in the east, west, and north and another reason is that the southern piece of this country is free and open with the wide Bay of Bengal to the main ocean.

Moreover, the border of Bangladesh is not enough to secure the boundary security which can obstruct dealers in moving drugs and arms across the border. The ocean in its south part gave an open way to criminals as the Golden Triangle point containing Thailand and Myanmar for arms carrying. For an alternate reason, the arms dealers have been utilizing the land route for dispatching their items. small arms dealing through this country has been focused on exercises in the Northeast piece of India, Sri Lanka, and some parts of Myanmar.¹³

¹³ Caroline Ziemke-Dickens and Julian Droogan, *Asian Transnational Security Challenge: Emerging Trends, Regional Visions*, (Sydney: Macquaire University Publication, 2010).

Arms dealing has been prompting brutality through customary and modern contentions in the communities. Arms dealing used to be considered a local threat before growing into a transnational crime by today. An expanded measure of unlawful arms raises the issue of increases in abuses of human rights both at the national and global levels, and frequently these arms are utilized to cause fear, kill people, they are used as a tool of torture, and there is an approach to engage kids in this phenomenon.

Because of the uncontrolled ethnic and religious issues in the region, the utilization of small arms and explosives in South Asia has been considered as a difficult problem. Social distinction and strict fundamentalism are frequently engaged in furnished struggle around here. It has ended up in a financial and political crisis that has no indication of mitigating itself. In particular, in Bangladesh, the political party striving to acquire rule over the other political group generally utilizes different unjustifiable means for their craving for power, which really causes social insecurity.

Arms dealing at the district level of Bangladesh has been kept up by the volunteer armies named, Tripura-based All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), and the United Liberation Front of Asam (ULFA). The pirated guns in Bangladesh are mostly made in China and in different other countries like India, the Czech Republic, and the USA. The arms incorporate shooter guns, sawn-off rifles, light machine guns, pistols, and Indian arms like pipe guns, revolvers, pistols, and so forth. Arms dealing by unlawful means causes public danger to the nation and the adjoining nations also.¹⁴

5. Human Trafficking/ Slavery

Since the early history of human culture and, later, with the development of the idea of state, individuals have been searching for better chances to relocate themselves to a better place. The journey goes on because individuals facing poverty and difficulty in their lives. Dealers exploit the needs of such needy individuals who really need to get rid of their poverty and they benefit from taking advantage of them in various barbaric ways. The human rights associations have characterized illegal exploitation as any activity which incorporates transportation, selling of a person through double-dealing, force, snatching, abducting or some other means and takes advantage of them in a way which abuses basic human rights with the aim of acquiring financial advantage.

Illegal trafficking has been viewed as an unspeakable atrocity, which may also be named asslavery. Since the independence of Bangladesh, it has been quite gravely experiencing illegal exploitation as human trafficking. Bangladesh has encountered various types of illegal exploitation like dealing for sexual

¹⁴ Md. Istiaq Ahmed Talukder, "Transnational Organized Crimes and Security Threats in Bangladesh," *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities* 7, no. 2 (June 2021), https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353162404_Transnational_Organized_Crime_and_Security_Threats_in_the_Context_of_Bangladesh.

double-dealing, forced prostitution, child labor, organ dealing and different types of double-dealing. During the ten years from 1999 to 2009, around 300,000 Bangladeshi youngsters (both male and female) between the ages of 12 and 30 have been traded to adjoining India and other countries.

The most common type of human trafficking in Bangladesh is used for sexual abuse, or forced prostitution, where a large part of those targeted are kids and young women. The girls who are being traded for sex ventures in Asia are generally under 18 years of age and sold for around 1000 US dollars each. There are countless cases in Bangladesh and India where the actual guardians sold their daughter/ward because of their insatiability for cash. Another explanation is wanting sons more than daughters and thinking about girls as an item, which is another reason contributing to the trafficking of girls even by their guardians. This can reflect the entire virtue of any country and such a circumstance is very dangerous for any country's future as a whole. In 2000, the Bangladeshi Parliament passed a regulation named Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children 2000. This Act amalgamated all arrangements distinguishing offenses and abuses committed against women and children and, furthermore, it lays down punishments for the trafficking of women and children for financial benefit.

The human trafficking market is frequently covered through human piracy, which influences the social and financial condition of any country. Like other transnational crimes, human trafficking is also difficult to tackle for Bangladesh without a joint effort. However, 70% of the world's 4.8 million sex dealing casualties are from Asia, and the Pacific area. Different global associations have detected Bangladesh as a supplier for dealing with unlawful migrants to Europe and other countries. Consistently, a huge number of individuals, especially women and children are traded from Bangladesh.¹⁵

In 2012 Bangladesh has endorsed the worldwide instrument of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime known as the Palermo Convention by announcing to make a successful move to combat transnational crime like human trafficking, punish traffickers, and safeguard the basic freedoms of humans.¹⁶

6. Transnational Monetary Crimes in Bangladesh

The term Financial Crime conjures up various ideas relying upon the jurisdiction and on the specific circumstance. Generally, monetary crimes are not violent crime but rather bring only a monetary benefit to the perpetrators and economic loss to other people of the state. It incorporates a scope of

¹⁵ Prevention of violence Against Women and Children Act, 2000 (Act No. VIII of 2000).

¹⁶ UN General Assembly, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 15th November 2000, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4720706c0.html>.

criminal operations like corruption, for example, bribery, financial extortion for example mortgage, insurance fraud, credit card fraud, fake notes, money laundering, tax avoidance, circumvention of trade limitations, and illegal cross-border reserve transfer.¹⁷

Bangladesh is considered a safe place for monetary crime. Hundi or black market cash trade strategy is usually involved in the method of cross-border money transfer. Bangladesh has countless networks living in Europe and different countries of Asia. A section of these non-residents utilizes the informal channel of Hundi to dispatch cash back to the home country by non-lawful means, by which no trace is actually left of the transaction. Due to Hundi, the Government loses an enormous sum in potential income profit every year, which becomes a monetary danger.¹⁸

Money laundering is one more transnational monetary crime in Bangladesh during the ongoing time frame. Terrorist groups also utilize the method for funding and assailant exercises. It is consistently accounted as gigantic measures of assets raised for the sake of charity and the asset raiser frequently does it for illegal tax avoidance. For diminishing this crime Bangladesh adopted the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2002 on April 5, 2002, and the principal parts of this act provide for the foundation of a money laundering court and proper investigation and implementation of punishment for infringement of the regulation.

7. Combating Transnational Organized Crime: EU Measures

Organized criminal groups in Europe are active in various crimes, like drug dealing, property-related crime, misrepresentation, human trafficking, and illegal migration. Organized criminals are the greatest danger to the security of any state. They are exceptionally proficient and prominent in transnational crimes. There should be a few measures for combating organized crime. In the past few years, the EU has taken some methodologies expecting to handle organized crime by helping law enforcement with legal collaboration, tackling organized crimes by considering them as high-priority crimes, eliminating criminal benefits, and providing innovative responses to modern improvements for progressing organized crimes. The EU has introduced methodology to reinforce European policing of both the physical and the computerized world.

i) Boosting law enforcement and judicial cooperation:

Organized criminals active in the EU come from different ethnicities, and effective legal policing and judicial cooperation across the EU is the main and most effective way to prevent organized crime. The policing framework across

¹⁷ Phil Williams, "Transnational Criminal Organisations and International Security," *Survival: Global Policy and Strategy* 36, no. 1 (Spring 1994), <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00396339408442726>.

¹⁸ The Daily Star, 30th May, 2007, <https://www.thedailystar.net>.

Europe requires collaboration regarding rulebooks. The EU has modernized and built up subsidizing for the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), which collaborates with all European and public specialists to recognize priority crimes and address them all together. To ensure that law enforcement agencies can work better together, an EU Police Cooperation Code has been proposed which will establish multi-horizontal collaboration arrangements. Security in border interoperable data frameworks will help to detect and combat high-priority crimes such as transnational organized crimes. For better handling of criminal organizations working globally, the EU is intending to begin arranging a cooperative agreement with Interpol.¹⁹

ii) More Effective Investigation to Disrupt Organized Crime

To ensure a useful reaction to diminishing explicit types of crimes, the EU will set up rules for counterfeiting and drug-related crimes. It will likewise adopt measures to address the illegal trade of social merchandise. The European Commission is likewise proposing a Strategy committed to combatting illegal exploitation by human trafficking and other organized crime.

iii) Disrupting Criminal Finances

The majority of criminal groups in the EU take part in corruption and unlawful businesses for financing their further activities, however, very few of those criminal resources have been seized. Disrupting criminal funds is a vital way to reveal, detect and punish criminals. The European Commission will propose confiscating criminal benefits, fostering the anti-money laundering rules of Europe, advancing investigation, and evaluating anti-corruption rules. These measures also help to battle against infiltration into the legal field and the economy.

iv) Making Law Enforcement and the Judiciary Fit for the Digital Age

In this technology-based 21st century, most of the time criminals act through web networks and perpetrate online crimes with no barriers or boundaries. Law enforcement and the legal executive need to utilize current innovation and be furnished with apparatuses and abilities to stay aware of present-day online-based crimes. The European Commission will examine potential ways to deal with data protection methods and analyze a way to address a legitimate and lawful acceptance of encrypted data with regard to criminal examinations and investigations that would safeguard the security and secrecy of confidential databases.

8. Steps Taken by Bangladesh Government Regarding Transnational Crimes

Among all South-Asian countries, Bangladesh shares its border with the most countries, such as India, Nepal, and Myanmar, which surround this

¹⁹ EU Strategy to Tackle Organized Crime, European Commission Press Release, Brussels, 14th April, 2021.

country on every side. And the South part of this country is bordered by the sea, therefore, using this way, organized crimes related to piracy are easy to commit. As result, almost every border region is affected by human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The global demand for low-wage workers makes Bangladesh accessible for migrant smugglers.

Bangladesh's government has made so many attempts to prevent organized crime by its own state law and through cooperation with the global arena. In January 1990, Bangladesh passed the Narcotics Control Act 1990, which empowers law enforcement to arrest and seize any narcotics, drugs, psychotropic substances, or any such product found in anyone's possession.²⁰ In 2002, through the amendments, this Act became more powerful regarding the matter of consumption, buying and selling of such narcotic substances and, also, strict provision for penalties were added.

For controlling money laundering crime, the Money Laundering Act 2002 was adopted. Under this Act, every illegal financial transfer or remitting transfer, concealing or investing moveable/immovable property acquired through illegal means, and any violation of the freezing order of any account were defined as a crime.²¹

Very recently in 2012, the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012 was adopted by the Bangladesh government. This Act specifies in its preamble that "this Act make provisions to prevent and suppress human trafficking, to ensure the protection and rights of victims of the offense of human trafficking, and to ensure safe migration."²²

In the arena of international cooperation to prevent organized crime, Bangladesh headed on with other states. A bilateral agreement for preventing the trafficking of illegal drugs and psychoactive substances, has been signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar. The SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1990 has the Bangladesh government as a signatory.

Most significantly, on 13 July, 2011 Bangladesh signed and ratified the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. This convention is considered as the main international instrument to fight against organized crime and Bangladesh became a member state of this convention by signing it and so the country has gained an advantageous position for all cooperative activities under UN policy. In addition, three other protocols, such as- the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; the Protocol against the Smuggling of

²⁰ The Narcotics Control Act 1990, Act No. XX of 1990, <https://bangladesh.justiceaudit.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Narcotics-Act-1990.pdf>.

²¹ The Money Laundering Prevention Act 2002, Act No. V of 2012, http://bangladeshcustoms.gov.bd/download/Money_Laundring_Prevention_Act_2012-English_Version.pdf.

²² The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, Act no. III of 2012, <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/543f75664.pdf>.

Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms are attached to the Convention and focus on particular aspects and manifestations of organized crime. The main purpose of this convention is to govern international cooperation among law enforcement and judicial authorities of member states by sharing evidence, and to guide the member states with rules in updating their legislation, investigation and prosecution of the criminals of organized crime.²³ Furthermore, according to Article 16 of the UN Convention Bangladesh also has an extradition agreement for criminals of organized crime.

In spite of having so many schemes and accomplishments, the Bangladesh government is not able, by itself, to ensure the transparency and accountability of law enforcing officials. Even in 2018, after declaring war against drugs by making strict penal laws for the possession or selling of illegal drugs, there were lots of cases reported of extrajudicial killing against the law enforcing agencies, which were considered as a human right violation and noticeably lacked a high level of transparency.²⁴

Over the last decade, Bangladesh has taken numerous kinds of steps against organized crime. But still, there is no specific legislation for protecting children from child marriage, prostitution, and exploiting by criminal gangs. In 2020, Bangladesh has established seven special anti-trafficking courts for dealing with human trafficking cases more efficiently. Yet there are some legislative gaps in terms of illicit trading and human trafficking, which are still beyond the control of the authorities. Delays in the judicial proceeding because of the case burden on overloaded courts result in a low rate of conviction. In spite of taking all the above measures, Bangladesh is not being able to show any significant reduction rate of organized crimes even in its prospering area. There is a lot to do for further preventing these organized crimes and for being relieved from their undetermined future threats.

9. What Further Measures Should Be Taken by Bangladesh for Preventing Future Threat

As per the above conversation, Bangladesh has already adopted some measures inside of its own legal sectors and also on the international arena. But it is yet to resolve the security risk of transnational organized crime. There is no choice for Bangladesh but to adopt some further preventive measures for combating organized crimes for mitigating future threats. The Bangladesh government- through its regulation of law enforcing agencies should become able to control the rising risks of transnational organized crime by enforcing severe obstructions in the border areas.

²³ Ian Tennant, "Fulfilling the Promise of Palermo? A Political History of the UN convention Against Transnational Organized Crime" *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development* 2, no. 1 (2021), <https://jied.lse.ac.uk/articles/10.31389/jied.90/>.

²⁴ Global Organized Crime Index Africa, Criminality in Bangladesh, <<https://ocindex.net/country/bangladesh>.

The EU has put in place measures to boost the law enforcement agencies, but inside Bangladesh, there is a lot lacking because of the non-transparency and non-accountability regarding the measures. Basically, the law-enforcing agencies of Bangladesh comprising the Bangladeshi police, the Border Guard Bangladesh, and the Coast Guard are battling against border security violations. The Bangladeshi police are working on policies to prevent such serious crimes that threaten the future existence of the country. Additionally, the Border Guards and Coast Guards are there to prevent crimes from occurring in the border and marine regions. The Border Guards generally keep an eye on the boundary regions to detect any suspicious activities or crimes. The Coast Guard of Bangladesh is constantly monitoring the marine ways of the ocean close to the border to prevent pirating and smuggling along these routes. The public authority should provide increased logistic help to the Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB), Bangladeshi Police, the Coast Guard, and local government to enable working more productively and effectively to prevent border or transnational crimes. Local administrations should coordinate their efforts with the local leaders and make a consolidated team for controlling organized crime.²⁵ If the local authorities monitor the activities of police and other law enforcement then it may help to boost up their functions.

Executive officers and magistrates are also the facilitators for the law enforcing organizations in the local area. Executive officers consistently organize different public awareness programs for controlling the violations in the region of the border locality. The local inhabitants of the border areas are extremely ignorant about transnational organized crimes and their future impact on the overall country. The impact of drugs on the young generation and the risks of human trafficking should be emphasized in such public awareness programs. For instance: banners and leaflets, public announcements, showing public pictures or films about the adverse consequences of human trafficking can be effective in raising local shields to prevent organized crimes in the locality.

Collaborative measures with the adjoining countries should be taken to obstruct the commission transnational organized crime, as the Bangladeshi government can take cooperative measures with the Myanmar government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to embrace a productive resolution for solving the issue of the Rohingya community for Myanmar. Likewise, Community policing exercises can guarantee neighborhood security which may be useful for preventing cross-border crimes. Because of the absence of the political intent of cooperation and participation, South Asian countries have been over and again unsuccessful in the effective battle against transnational security issues. Political collaboration between

²⁵ Jubeda Chowdhury, "The Requirements of Military Diplomacy Between Bangladesh and Myanmar", *Pakistan Defence Forum*, 28th March 2022, <https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/the-requirements-of-military-diplomacy-between-bangladesh-myanmar.738520/>.

states in South Asia will create the opportunity to make essential changes in this respect.

In addition, Bangladesh endorsed the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime but there is a further need for full implementation of these preventive measures as per the convention, specifically in the border areas and Bangladesh should enter more into cooperation in the international field for getting the help of the international community in this perspective. Following EU measures Bangladesh needs to focus more on disrupting criminal finances and funding.

The European Union has already adopted digitalization measures in order to fit in with the digital age. As the world is pursuing a digital era even in legal segments, so many South Asian countries like Bangladesh are lagging behind. Digitalization in the scope of legislative and executive data protection methods needs to be adopted for monitoring the online-based web network of organized crimes.

Transnational organized crime is a global issue nowadays and Bangladesh is faced with security hazards and its future is in danger. However, it is hard to battle against transnational crime solely in Bangladesh, this fight requires global collaboration of the international community. For that reason, Bangladesh also needs to adopt useful measures which help it to reduce the future security risk of border crimes. Most importantly, the proper implementation of the measures which have already been taken should be ensured. Only adopting measures cannot be the solution without a proper way of implementation and the Bangladesh government needs to work hard on that practical part.

10. Conclusion

Transnational organized crimes are basically those types of crimes that can affect more than one country's sovereignty and economic condition. Such crimes have been expanded in Bangladesh and the South Asian region. Terrorism, human trafficking, arms dealing, and different types of transnational security dangers have raised tension among strategy creators due to multiple factors. Drug dealing in Latin America or transnational organized crimes in South Asia have created critical financial, social, and political insecurity. It is an extremely challenging issue for Bangladesh to battle against organized crime in regions along the boundary mainly because of its geographical position. As India and Myanmar have a border with Bangladesh and it is easy to expand criminal activity across the borders, so Bangladesh is at risk if not able to control such expansion strictly.

In the above study, some organized crimes and their nature have been discussed, which are reasons for suffering. Drug dealing is gradually destroying the young generation and human trafficking is the most heinous organized crime which is run by criminal groups and exploits mainly children and women. Kidnapping and abduction crimes also increase resulting in this human trafficking racket. Public authorities are doing their best attempting to combat

the crimes level. But due to the weak economic structure, delicate political democracy, and social fracture, it has become very challenging for Bangladesh to dispose of these transnational security dangers all alone. The transnational nature of the dangers additionally requires an aggregate and comprehensive effort to deal with and face the difficulties.

The Bangladesh government has already taken some steps to fight against transnational organized crime. Among them, being a signatory to the UN Convention is the biggest initiative, which opens the door to international cooperation and mutual help to prevent organized crime from the root. In spite of such significant steps, the successful reduction rate of organized crime is yet to be achieved by the government of Bangladesh. The European Union has some measures which can be followed to cover up the slight gaps still existing in Bangladeshi adjudications.

The rising tension due to organized crimes is becoming terrible around the entire world. So many legal instruments are accessible that could be utilized for preventive purposes. The global community and local agenda settled on a lawful instrument to improve worldwide collaboration to tackle the common threats of transnational organized crime. The need to combat transnational organized crime over the world has become a top global political priority. This has brought about genuine progress in supporting legal collaboration and the advancement of regulation all over the world.

To establish a common deliberation to fight against transnational crimes endangering security a few measures must be taken. Initially, each State should impose significance on building and reinforcing institutional capacity with the object of confronting the difficulties in an effective way. In combating transnational security crime in Bangladesh as well as in the entire world, the requirement for a coordinated methodology is essential. In this approach, common dangers and interests among the countries should be recognized and an extradition mechanism should be introduced to improve opportunities for mutual cooperation.