

How to spot corruption

Two of the 50 shades of corruption are corporatocracy and organised crime. Due to the devastating effect of organised crime on weakening and penetrated states, the following question arises: Is it possible to develop a profile of citizens' "typical" behaviour if they are active in organised crime? There are symptoms or red flags of citizens' possible involvement in organised crime in a corporate and legal set-up.

The first flag is when citizens' living standards are far higher than what they can afford, based on their formal and legal occupations or positions:

The second flag is when employees do not want to take leave from office. They constantly have to "guard" the intricate spider network of mutual relations and obligations. They have to keep "tabs" on or control over collaborators suspected of double dealings, including competitors that continuously change the rules of the game to outsmart each other.

The third red flag is when illegal organised businesses are taking over legal businesses with impunity from the police. It is worth realising that the mafia is actually in the protection business, they provide top class security and protection to illegal and legal business. If legal businesses refuse such "protection", either the mafia and/or another competing syndicate, eliminate them.

Powerful syndicates protect legal and illegal businesses. Such syndicates provide them with the opportunity to run their daily operations. They pay a monthly fee (similar to rent) to their guardians. For example, businesses in some areas of Hillbrow, Johannesburg and Mumbai (India) pay rent to such "landlords" or mafia bosses.

The fourth red flag is only apparent to those with an in-depth knowledge and insight about the underlying supporting systems of organised crime and the



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context of their operations. Organised criminals together with corporate fraudsters control the drivers of the corrupt systems. Corporate facilitators protect them, such as some greedy and scrupulous lawyers and auditors in the grey world of paper companies and cybercrime, a world mostly unknown to the public.

The fourth red flag do not only provide an indication of citizens' possible involvement in organised crime, but can also be an indication that a penetrated state is in transition towards becoming a "criminal state", e.g. South Africa.

Once organised crime monopolies are secured, they eliminate competitors on a consistent and progressive basis. In the process they create uncertainty for competitors and potential investors and an insecure business climate. Such insecurity creates recurring negative behaviour, because such climate attracts more powerful organised criminal groups, including transnational syndicates. For example, the presence of international syndicates in Ukraine and South Africa made possible by stockbrokers and lawyers that facilitate "dirty" money in stock exchanges, property and legal businesses. It is time to look for corporate criminals in order to detect organised criminals, because they cannot operate separately, they fit like a hand in a glove.

• References

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