



SUPPORTED BY:
**MacArthur
Foundation**

October 2023 Edition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| Table of Contents | -01 |
| Introduction | -02 |
| International Symposium on Countering Organized Crime: Center's 1st Symposium Fosters Collaboration in Africa | -03 |
| Violent Conflict Organized Crime Nexus and Threat to Regional Stability | -04 |
| Sound Bites from the Symposium | -05 |
| Organized Crime Networks in the Gulf of Guinea and Maritime Safety: The Nexus of Human, Drugs and Arms Trafficking | -06 |
| Sights and Scenes from Countering Organized Crime Symposium | -07 |
| Cybercrime in Africa: Where are we? What are we doing about it? | -08 |
| Sound Bites from the Symposium | -09 |
| Financial Crimes as an Enabler of Organized Crime | -10 |

INTRODUCTION

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to share another exciting edition of our Monthly Transparency Watch with you.

The month of October has seen us expanding our advocacy to promote good governance through the instrumentality of transparency and accountability. As we edge towards the end of the year, we are resolute in our belief that the fight against corruption is winnable if citizens can freely access public information which will empower them to ask relevant questions and demand accountability from their leaders.

In this edition however, we bring you highlights and scenes from our first symposium to counter organized crime in Africa. The symposium saw the gathering of law enforcement practitioners, academics and experts to discuss ways to build resilient institutions to stem the wave of organized crime on the continent.

The Center is glad at the insightful conversation at all the sessions and outcome of the symposium, and poised to work with stakeholders towards combatting organized crime. Notably, besides continuous advocacy, we hope to work with relevant agencies, especially the Office of National Security Adviser (ONSA) to develop a National Policy and Strategy on Organize Crime.

We invite you to continue to partner with us in this important task of ridding our nation of corruption, and the continent of organized crime for sustainable growth and development.

Happy New Month!

Victor Agi
Public Relations Lead

International Symposium on Countering Organized Crime: Center's 1st Symposium Fosters Collaboration in Africa

The first symposium to counter the proliferation of organized crime and deepen the understanding of the issue within the region held in October. The symposium's overriding objective is to approach the issues holistically as a nation, culminating in the development of a National Policy and Strategy Document.

The symposium was organized against the backdrop of increasing threats posed by organized crime networks across the African continent. These criminal enterprises have become a major impediment to sustainable development and regional stability. They have also become more sophisticated in their approach, using technology and exploiting legal and financial systems to evade detection and prosecution.

The highlight of the symposium is the need for African countries, leaders and all stakeholders to prioritize combating grand corruption for long-term stability, inclusive development, entrenchment of the rule of law, building of strong institutions and a prosperous society for the people of the continent.

Discussions also point to the need to invest in building the capacity of responders (especially law enforcement personnel) and improve cross-border cooperation to counter the rise of organized crime on the continent.



Session 1

Violent Conflict Organized Crime Nexus and Threat to Regional Stability



The first of nine sessions at the symposium highlighted the interconnectedness of the challenges of organized crime to regional stability in the continent. To address the threat posed by organized crime syndicates, speaker and discussants emphasized the importance of international cooperation and collaboration, and called for an urgent Africa-wide actionable agenda to fight organized crime for the safety and well-being of the African.

Prof. Freedom Onuoha of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka who presented the lead paper on this panel said: “to a varying degrees, conflict

economy and criminal economy overlap or reinforce each other – they are both dynamic and constantly intersecting and interacting to foster the persistence of insecurity and instability.

Prof. Onuoha stated that violent conflict organized crime has been the clog on the wheels of the region’s development. “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development affirms explicitly that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development,” he said, and underscored the need to urgently tackle the conflict-crime nexus.



Sound Bites from the Symposium



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME IN AFRICA



It is crucial to understand that addressing organized crime is complex and requires a multifaceted approach. As a continent, we must demonstrate leadership, resilience, and a vision for a brighter future



Mr. Dasuki Arabi
DG, Bureau of Public Service Reforms



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME IN AFRICA



The menace of organized crime knows no boundaries. It does not discriminate based on tribe, gender, rank or uniform. Our battle is not just for law and order; it is for the very soul of our nation



Ola Olukoyede
Chairman of the EFCC Represented



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME IN AFRICA



In addressing crude oil theft, one step should be the decentralization of power to the states, which will bring accountability closer to the people; local people will take responsibility for protecting their resources (crude oil)



Dr. Ugoji Egbujo
Panel six Paper Presenter



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME IN AFRICA



Organized Crime in Nigeria is sophisticated, assumed violence dimension and is diversified in the last two decades; this calls to question if our responses as a nation and international partners have been effective



Dr. Oliver Stolpe
Country Director, UNODC



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME IN AFRICA



To varying degrees, conflict economy and criminal economy overlap or reinforce each other – they are both dynamic and constantly intersecting and interacting to foster the persistence of insecurity and instability



Prof. Freedom Onuoha
Professor of Political Science, UNN



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME IN AFRICA



Demonstrable, clear and transparent political will, review of legislation and strengthening of the capacity of the law enforcement agents are some of the way forward in addressing crude oil theft



Chile Okoroma,
Fmr. Director of Legal, EFCC



Panel 2 Organized Crime Networks in the Gulf of Guinea and Maritime Safety: The Nexus of Human, Drugs and Arms Trafficking

Organized crime is a complex interplay that undermines governance, exacerbates security challenges, hampers economic development, and leads to humanitarian crises.



The dearth of intelligence, unmonitored borders, and the lack of a comprehensive biometric database for suspects arrested in connection to crime are among the challenges of organized crime in the Gulf of Guinea.



The need for a shared commitment by actors, and a comprehensive strategy to understand the nexus between public sector corruption, state capture & organized crime in order to mitigate these threats and work towards lasting peace and stability in the region was highlighted.



Sights and Scenes from Countering Organized Crime Symposium



Session 3

Cybercrime in Africa: Where are we? What are we doing about it?

The ever evolving and changing cyberspace landscape means that efficient structure and adaptation is key to addressing cybercrime, including the move towards a decentralized web to curb monopoly, corruption and compromise.

With the centralized web model, the issue of data privacy and ownership are a concern, and it's even more disturbing that tech companies and private entities often have more information about individuals than law enforcement agencies.

In an era that the use of artificial intelligence is on

increase, cybercrime responders must also evolve and deploy AI tools, like the Casper database, a crime mapping and analytics tool developed by the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch, which assists law enforcement agencies with crime statistics, trends and patterns.

Given its interconnected nature, a coordinated global approach is required to address cybercrime, and regional actors should harmonize and develop a comprehensive cybersecurity policy and strategy to effectively combat cybercrime.



Sound Bites from the Symposium



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME IN AFRICA



Politicians collaborate with militants for money and votes. The militants in Niger delta influence electoral outcomes because violence and money have decided results of elections in many parts of the Niger Delta since 1960. Sometimes politicians get illegal permits to lift crude

Dr. Ugoji Egbujo
Panel six Paper Presenter



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME IN AFRICA



African countries must tackle organized crimes frontally by prioritizing long term stability and inclusive development, with a focus on reducing poverty, inequality, and enhancing governance structures and institutions

Amb. Emmanuel Okafor, mni
Chairman of the Symposium



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME IN AFRICA



Demonstrable, clear and transparent political will, review of legislation and strengthening of the capacity of the law enforcement agents are some of the way forward in addressing crude oil theft

Chile Okoroma, SAN
Fmr. Director of Legal, EFCC



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME IN AFRICA



In this war against organized crimes, I will always campaign for more synergy between security agencies, as well as prompt criminal intelligence-sharing

Dr. Solomon Arase, IGP (Rtd)
Chairman of Police Service Commission Represented



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME IN AFRICA



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development affirms explicitly that "there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development", underscore the need to urgently tackle the conflict-crime nexus

Prof. Freedom Onuoha
Professor of Political Science, UNN



Session 4

Financial Crimes as an Enabler of Organized Crime

The quest for wealth has beclouded morality and integrity of individuals and institutions, thereby increasing the spate of several income generating crimes; the consequence of which is the collapse of economies and enormous hardship inflicted on the people of the continent.

Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) from Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is estimated at about US\$88.6 Billion (UNCTAD, 2020) and is largely enabled by deposit money banks, bureau de change, legal practitioners, accountants, real estate developers and other below the radar platforms; hence, there is the need for a sustained and continuous risk assessment to identify high-risk sectors and address them effectively.

In combating financial crimes, sector regulators should be equipped to adequately DETECT (reduce the profit incentives), DETER (increase the risks involved) and DISRUPT (frustrate activities). The existing preventive mechanisms need to be strengthened and punitive measures should be applied for dissuasive purposes.





Contact us at:
No 11 Ado-Ekiti Close, Area 11, Abuja

www.fiscaltransparency.org

 [fiscaltransparencynigeria](https://www.facebook.com/fiscaltransparencynigeria)  [fiscaltransparencyNG](https://twitter.com/fiscaltransparencyNG)  [fiscaltransparencynigeria](https://www.instagram.com/fiscaltransparencynigeria)