



# Transforming e Bulletin



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## News

### CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: A CENTRAL THEME OF THE GCST

by Felipe Salazar Tobar(\*)

The manifestation of insecurity as one of society's more relevant problems has required the search for alternatives in order to confront violence and criminal activities. Despite this, in many of the implemented measures there is not enough information related to tracking or the existence of evaluations with respect to the scope and results. This has been observed as a weakness that has led to the preference of initiatives that are populist and heavy handed in nature or those in which the main urgency is to implement dramatic short-term measures that fail to address the problem from diverse points of view.

Crime prevention and community participation intend for civil society to play a role in its own security, in addition to what the current system, based on control and sanctions, simultaneously does. In this manner, the community's objective is to build security as a public good in response to the actual threats and perceived risks (Hughes and Harris, 2005:20) which, as a result, allow for the creation of changes in the quality of life and the detection of critical points in regards to crime and violence that effect society.

The present working group's main objective is to identify and analyze the institutional elements and public policies that have been developed in the sphere of crime prevention and community participation, with specific interest in developing regions. In order to do this, two analytical aspects have been defined: the institutional perspective and implemented mechanisms. This assumes that one of the conditions of any successful strategy or public policy is the institutional development necessary for the implementation and accomplishment of objectives, results and impacts, as well as a series of measures that must be developed and implemented in order to deal with any difficulties that arise.

Therefore, the initiative intends to assemble experts from civil society from diverse countries and regions of the world who will be key participants in the formulation of knowledge in the scope and challenges of crime prevention in a globalized context, which also requires emphasis on local and regional features in its proximity

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## Topic of analysis

### POLICE REFORM IN LATIN AMERICA: CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE LATIN-AMERICAN NETWORK OF POLICE AND CIVIL SOCIETY <sup>(1)</sup>

Rachel Maître (\*)



Twenty years after the formal democratic transitions in Latin America, many countries in the region currently suffer from extremely high levels of violence and criminal activity. Faced with this rising problem, the authorities are unable to formulate objective and consistent security policies, to intervene effectively in reality, in a politically structural and technically sustainable way.

It is frequent that excellent progressive measures in the area of public security, with the transforming potential of traditional relations of "negotiations," in their dynamic and interactive varieties, with the triad of the state, law enforcement and society playing the lead role, do not reach a level of institutionalism and remain abandoned along the road by motives unmentionable, whether they are of an economic, political or social nature, and that pass parallel to the interests of the state.

In this context, the Latin American Network of Police and Civil Society was created in 2006 from a dual bet: to build a qualified Latin-American space of exchange between law enforcement and civil society with the mission to create, disseminate and adopt innovative proposals for more efficient police institutions adapted to the democratic regime. The Network aims to promote information exchanges between regional police organizations, transfer and disseminate good law enforcement practices and reproduce comparative studies with a view to creating an active regional collaboration that allows for the emergence of new law enforcement models suitable in a Latin-American context.

In addition, the Network intends to bring together law enforcement officials committed to reform and civil organizations, promoting dialog and collaboration between them, overcoming historic mutual distrust and integrating scientific production with the joint knowledge from police

experiences. This critical dialog should bring about the collective strengthening of these actors, allowing them to defend their proposals with a dual legitimacy: law enforcement offers an internal legitimacy to the venture, while civil society exempts them from the suspicion of acting in their own self interest.

By bringing together activists, academics and law enforcement officials, the Network sets itself up as a platform for the exchange of ideas and proposals, an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional space that values individuals and provides its members with the opportunity to exchange and debate, free from corporatist ties. Through the promotion of the exchange of knowledge and experiences, the Network has contributed to thinking about new policies and strategies in the field of public security, principally directed towards the dissemination and application of the new information, models and techniques.

The Network currently includes the participation of researchers and police officials from 10 Latin-American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela, which represent 31 law enforcement agencies and 12 civil society organizations. It is a fertile land of ideas and motives that already represents a force in which the whole is greater than the sum of its members.

We hope that in the not too distant future the systematic disclosure of the knowledge and innovative practices, almost always invisible in the eyes of society, can in some way inspire and encourage governments regarding the objectives of formulating new policies, strategies and public security models.

*(\*)Researcher from the program of public security at Viva Rio and coordinator from the Latin American Network of Police and Civil Society.*

#### Suggested Documents

**HUGO FRÜHLING, VIOLENCIA Y POLICÍA EN AMÉRICA LATINA, FLACSO-ECUADOR: JUNE 2009.**

[http://www.flacso.org.ec/html/publ.php?p\\_number=LB\\_0000702](http://www.flacso.org.ec/html/publ.php?p_number=LB_0000702)

(1) This is an abridged version of: Reforma Policial na América Latina: contribuições da Rede Latino-americana de Policiais e Sociedad Civil, MAÎTRE Rachel y CARBALLO BLANCO Antônio Carlos, Cadernos Adenauer IX, nº4, Segurança Pública. Rio de Janeiro: Fundação Konrad Adenauer, Janeiro 2009.

# Developing Project in SST

## ARMED FORCES AND AT-RISK GROUPS: MONITORING AND IMPACT FROM CIVIL SOCIETY

Liza Zúñiga (\*)



On August 20 in Mexico City, the forum, organized by the Latin-American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO-Chile) and the Institute for Security and Democracy-Mexico (INSYDE), was held within the framework of the Global Consortium on Security Transformation. The forum took place as part of the first meeting of the Working Group on Organized Crime and included four presentations from prominent experts who are part of the group.

The first presentation was by Ernesto Savona, professor of criminology at the Catholic University of Milan and director of TRANSCRIME, and was titled Zooming Organized Crime in Europe: Markets, Groups, Remedies. The research distinguished four groups according to the type of extortion committed and the two main conclusions drawn were: (1) the more that extortion is used, the more hierarchical the group's structure is, and if the group moves from that territory, it will not use extortion in a systematic fashion; (2) Europe is attempting to increase its level of international cooperation through laws.

The second presentation, titled Chinese Organized Crime and the Fallible Concept of Global Expansion, was by Sheldon Zhang, professor of sociology at San Diego State University in the United States. The presentation emphasized that the foundation of territorial organization of traditional organized crime is not easily moved from one territory to another or from one market to another.

The third presentation, Organized Crime and Terrorism: Exploring Linkages in South Asia, was by Mallika Joseph, deputy director of the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies in New Delhi, India. According to the expert, terrorist groups use the routes of organized crime, the criminal groups seek training in the use of arms and explosives, and both are financially dependent on drug trafficking, corrupt officials and weak legal controls.

The final presentation, Organized Crime as Crime of the Powerful, by Vincenzo Ruggiero, professor of sociology and co-director of the Crime and Conflict Research Centre at Middlesex University in the UK, analyzed the relationship between organized crime and corruption, pointing out that they are closely intertwined.

We invite you to download the full presentation from our speakers, as well as the transcriptions of the seminar, in the Meetings section of our webpage: [http://www.securitytransformation.org/wg\\_descripcion.php?id=2](http://www.securitytransformation.org/wg_descripcion.php?id=2)



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# Current and Recent Events



## GCST News

### GCST Small Grants

We are pleased to announce the launching of our 2010 Small Grants. The funds are open to young researchers and policy activists under 35 years of age from developing countries who want to make written contributions, undertake research, or launch policy initiatives on subjects related to the Global Consortium on Security Transformation (GCST). You will soon receive an email with the details and instructions to apply for a grant.

### New Working Groups webpages

The GCST is pleased to announce that we have concluded the process of designing new webpages for each one of its Working Groups, which now has a dedicated space to publish its work, disseminate its publications and bibliographic references and provide updates on its meetings: [http://www.securitytransformation.org/esp/wg\\_index.php](http://www.securitytransformation.org/esp/wg_index.php)

### Workshop on Crime Prevention

This is the first international activity of the Working Group on Crime Prevention. It will take place in Santiago de Chile on October 21-22.

## Seminars and Conferences

### 3rd International Meeting on Legal Protection of Minor Rights

November 2-5, 2009 - Palacio de las Convenciones, Havana, Cuba.

[http://www.fgr.cu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=94:convocatoria-espanol&catid=53:proximo-evento--next-event&Itemid=57](http://www.fgr.cu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=94:convocatoria-espanol&catid=53:proximo-evento--next-event&Itemid=57)

### European Urban Safety Conference

Sweden, October 26.

<http://europeanurbansafetyconference.blogspot.com/>

## Publications

### Maras y pandillas en Centroamérica

Emilio Goubaud, Policy Brief, GCST Crime Prevention Series Nº1, September 2009.

[http://www.securitytransformation.org/wg\\_docus2.php?categoria=27](http://www.securitytransformation.org/wg_docus2.php?categoria=27)

### Study on extortion racketeering - Final Report, TRANSCRIME, 2009

[http://www.securitytransformation.org/wg\\_docus2.php?categoria=25](http://www.securitytransformation.org/wg_docus2.php?categoria=25)

Find more information about events, seminars and courses related to the GCST at: [www.securitytransformation.org/esp/news\\_events1.php](http://www.securitytransformation.org/esp/news_events1.php)

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