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Reforming Global Criminal Justice: Addressing Corruption's Impact on Armed Crime

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Abstract

The article examines the relationship between corruption and gun crime and emphasizes the need to counteract this phenomenon to ensure the safety of citizens. The article points to the importance of a proper justice system and reforms in this area to combat corruption and gun-related crimes. The authors of the article analyzed several countries in Africa and Latin America based on corruption and crime rates. The study showed that a high level of corruption directly affects a high level of crime and vice versa. Moreover, the study showed that countries in the same region, with similar stages of development, have different levels of corruption. This suggests that if the recommendations contained in the article are followed, it is possible to overcome corruption and reduce the level of other crimes that are directly related to it. In addition, the authors of the article emphasize the need to modernize and further develop the global strategy of criminal liability for corruption and other crimes arising from it. In general, it should be noted that the importance of international cooperation is extremely high, especially in the context of the international fight against corruption. International cooperation is a key tool in the global fight against corruption and armed crime, as these types of crimes can be international in nature and require coordination of efforts of different countries to be successfully overcome.

Keywords *Transnational Crimes, Global Strategy of Criminal Liability, Social Potential, War, Social Security*

Introduction

Many researchers emphasize that the factors that contribute to the spread of corruption in a country have deep connections with various phenomena, such as the economic crisis, imbalance in economic relations, high taxes, decreased productivity, rising unemployment, budget deficit, lack of compliance with the law and legal nihilism. It is generally known that one of the powerful factors contributing to the spread of corruption in public structures is the criminalization and growth of the shadow economy, inappropriate methodology and lack of transparency in the privatization of state and municipal property [1]. It is estimated that approximately 2.6 trillion USD is embezzled annually worldwide due to corrupt activities[2].

The political and legal causes of corruption include: gaps in legislation; insufficient legal regulation of liability and combating corruption; immunity of some officials who have committed corruption

1 Timashov, V. "The Causes and Conditions of Corruption in Ukraine." *Bulletin of Lviv Polytechnic National University. Series: Legal Sciences* 865 (2017): 338-344.

2 Free, C. "Looking through the Fraud Triangle: A Review and Call for New Directions." *Meditari Accountancy Research* 23, no. 2 (2015): 175-196.

crimes; prevalence of political corruption in Ukraine, which uses law enforcement agencies as a tool to fight opposition parties; lack of departmental policy documents that would specify and adapt the forms and methods of combating corruption prescribed in the legislation to the specifics of law enforcement agencies[3].

Analyzing the norms of international legal acts and other documents related to the fight against corruption, they can be classified into the following categories: rules establishing criminal liability; provisions regulating administrative sanctions and legislative mechanisms to prevent corruption; procedures for detecting and stopping corruption and bringing corrupt officials to justice; and norms related to economic measures to combat corruption[4] [5].

The main goals of Ukraine's policy on combating corruption in the civil service are as follows: to protect the state budget; to strengthen Ukraine's economic and political position in the international arena; to improve the effectiveness of the fight against corruption; to establish a comprehensive system of state control over compliance with anti-corruption legislation; to intensify Ukraine's participation in international cooperation in the field of combating corruption; to harmonize Ukraine's domestic legislation with international legal agreements and to further promote the

The negative consequences of corruption are very deep. It can exacerbate the problems of armed crime and undermine the ability of society to control and prevent armed conflict and crime[6]. For example, corruption can lead to disregard for the law and a lack of law enforcement. Individuals who wield influence through bribes or kickbacks can avoid accountability for their actions, including armed

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3 Plekan, V. "The Peculiarities and Causes of Corruption in Law Enforcement Agencies of Ukraine." *Entrepreneurship, Economics and Law* 4 (2021): 231-238.

4 Venedyktov, V., and Venedyktova, Yu. "The Relationship between Corruption and the Results of Law Enforcement Reform in Ukraine." *APRIORI. Series Humantiary Sciences* 2 (2017): 1-12.

5 Golovin, D., Nazymko, Y., Koropatov, O., and Korniienko, M. "Electronic Evidence in Proving Crimes of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Turnover." *Access to Justice in Eastern Europe* 5, no. 2 (2022): 156-166.

6 Korniienko, M. V., Petrunenko, I. V., Yena, I. V., Pankratova, K. O., and Vozniakovska, K. A. "Negative Effects of Corruption Offenses for the Country's Economy." *International Journal of Management* 11, no. 5 (2020): 1072-1083.

crimes. In addition, corruption can contribute to the excessive possession of weapons by citizens. This can lead to an increase in armed conflict and violence. It also makes it much easier for criminals to gain access to weapons that can be used to commit crimes. The illicit arms trade can be seen as a means of enrichment for corrupt officials.

Corruption is also a problem in law enforcement. In particular, corruption in law enforcement agencies can lead to insufficient investigation and punishment of criminals, including those who have committed armed crimes. This creates a perception of impunity and encourages increased criminal activity. Corruption schemes in the security and defense sector also have extremely negative consequences[7]. These problems result in insufficient funding or negligence of the state's security, which makes society more vulnerable to external threats and armed conflicts. Given the urgent problem of combating corruption, as well as the increase in the grounds that positively affect the development of crime, it is advisable to consider in the article the interconnection of corruption and armed crime, international experience in combating corruption, as well as the need for a global strategy of criminal liability.

The leading method used to write this article is the method of analysis and synthesis. First, it was used to analyze various literary sources and scientific publications related to corruption, armed crime and international cooperation in this area. The main trends and problems in this area were identified. The collected information was systematized according to thematic categories, such as corruption, armed crime, and international cooperation. This allowed us to structure the material and highlight key aspects. The method of analysis was used to analyze the impact of corruption on armed crime in different countries and regions, and to identify commonalities and differences. Based on the analysis, conclusions were synthesized on the impact of corruption on armed crime and the need for a global strategy of criminal liability. The collected information was summarized and formulated in the form of the main theses and conclusions of the article.

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[7] Smokov, S. M., Horoshko, V. V., Korniienko, M. V., and Medvedenko, S. V. "Rule of Law as a Principle of Criminal Procedure (On Materials of the European Court of Human Rights)." *Pakistan Journal of Criminology* 14, no. 3 (2022): 37-46.

The authors also used a comparative method. This made it possible to obtain an objective and detailed analysis of the impact of corruption on armed crime in different parts of the world and to formulate reasonable conclusions and recommendations. Thus, guided by the comparative method, the author conducted a comparative analysis of countries in Africa and Latin America, such as Somalia, Nigeria, Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia, Brazil and Chile. Based on the comparative analysis, the author substantiates the conclusion that corruption and armed crime are interconnected.

The authors also used the comparative method to analyze different levels of corruption in countries of the same region. The article also provides practical examples of countries that have successfully fought corruption and armed crime. This made it possible to identify key success factors and share their experience with other countries. The comparative analysis helped to formulate conclusions about the impact of corruption on armed crime and the need for a global strategy of criminal liability. The comparative approach helped to identify commonalities and differences in different contexts.

The authors also used the formal legal method. This method involves the analysis of legislative norms, legal acts, and legal doctrines. A detailed analysis of international agreements, conventions, declarations and other legal documents related to the fight against corruption and armed crime was conducted. In particular, the UN Convention against Corruption and other relevant documents were considered. The authors also partially touched upon the national legislation of Ukraine, which can be applied in the context of the article.

The systemic method was used to analyze corruption and armed crime in detail as complex problems affecting society and the state. Various aspects of these phenomena were identified, such as their consequences, origins and interconnections. The systemic analysis involved establishing the cause-and-effect relationship between corruption and armed crime. It considered how corruption can contribute to the growth of armed conflicts and the proliferation of weapons among criminals. The key factors that influence corruption and armed crime were identified using a systematic approach.

This included an analysis of the factors that contribute to the spread of these phenomena, such as an insufficient legal framework, a weak justice system, public distrust, etc. Based on the analysis, solutions and strategies were developed to combat corruption and armed crime. The systemic method allows us to consider these problems as part of a larger system and determine which interventions can be most effective at different levels. Overall, the systemic method allowed us to consider the problem of corruption and armed crime in the context of their interconnection and develop a comprehensive approach to solving them.

The use of the statistical method for writing the article involved collecting statistical data related to corruption and armed crime. This included an analysis of the Corruption Perceptions Index and the crime rate in the country. The data was analyzed to identify possible links and correlations between the level of corruption and the level of armed crime in different regions and countries. Statistical methods were used to identify the main factors influencing the growth of armed crime in the context of corruption. The statistical method allowed us to objectively investigate and confirm the existence of a relationship between corruption and armed crime on the example of selected countries, as well as to identify factors that may be important for understanding this phenomenon.

The Existence of Corruption as a Basis for the Development of Armed Crime

Corruption creates a negative environment where crime, including armed crime, can flourish. Armed crime and corruption have a complex interaction, and one important aspect of this interaction is the ease of access to weapons through corruption. It can manifest itself in different forms and in different countries, but the general trend is that corruption can provide criminals with easier access to guns in violation of laws and regulations. Criminals may bribe officials in the agencies that control the circulation and issuance of weapons. This can lead to the provision of legal weapons to individuals who should not have received them.

Ukraine is currently facing major problems with combating illicit arms trafficking, which is getting into the hands of civilians in large numbers as a result of the armed conflict. The objects of crimes under

Articles 262-264 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine [8] are firearms, including all types of combat, sporting, rifled hunting weapons, which are designed to mechanically impact living targets at a distance and to cause environmental damage by using the pressure of gases formed during the combustion of explosives, such as gunpowder or other special combustible mixtures. Firearms can be manufactured both illegally (e.g., homemade) and legally, in accordance with factory requirements.

In addition to the above-mentioned types of firearms, smoothbore hunting firearms may also be the subject of a crime under Article 264 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine[9]. The level of illegal arms trafficking is determined by the state of law and order in the country. Periods of history when the foundations of statehood are violated and social control in society breaks down significantly increase the level of illicit arms trafficking. Illicit arms trafficking can be seen as an indicator of the state of the state and national security. In particular, the military conflict was one of the impetus for the growth of illegal arms. And corruption only exacerbates this problem. Thus, the presence of corruption and illegal arms trafficking creates an environment for the development of crime[10].

In Ukraine, the problem of illegal firearms trafficking is caused not only by the ongoing armed conflict, but also by corruption schemes that provide criminals with opportunities to avoid responsibility and acquire weapons. Increased accessibility of weapons to criminals through corruption is a serious problem in many countries around the world. This situation arises when corrupt practices include the illegal provision of access to weapons to persons who are not authorized to possess them. As noted in the UN Global Firearms Trafficking Survey 2020, a significant proportion of illicit firearms originate from legal sources but end up on the black market after being legally exported.

The negative impact of corruption on the increase in criminal offenses

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8 Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. "Criminal Code of Ukraine. Law of Ukraine No. 2341-III." (2001). https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2341-14#Text

9 *Ibid.*

10 Kutsyi, Ya. "Illegal Weapons Trafficking in Ukraine: Concepts and Problems of Solution." (2019). http://ir.lib.vntu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/27317

However, under international and regional agreements such as the Arms Trade Treaty and the Central African Convention against Firearms, countries are required to assess the risk of illicit diversion when assessing export risk. Post-delivery confirmations can serve as an effective means of verifying that the export risk assessment is correct, and information on contraband firearms that have been seized in the country of destination can be an important source of information for the country of origin. Therefore, Member States should have open channels of communication and exchange of information on firearms that have entered the black market or been illegally resold[11].

Considering the possible risks and repercussions associated with illegal arms trafficking, both governments and international organizations view it as a substantial concern and a menace to national security and the realization of national objectives and interests. For instance, Sustainable Development Goal 16, which seeks to foster peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, explicitly underscores the necessity of substantially decreasing arms transfers by 2030. Consequently, the global community has acknowledged the significance of monitoring unlawful arms transfers and, specifically, gathering consistent data and details regarding confiscated, discovered, and voluntarily surrendered weapons[12].

The use of integrated and systematic mechanisms for data collection and the application of standardized templates and tools can help to improve the situation. Without such approaches, member states may face the risk of not achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16.4 and may not be able to carry out effective monitoring. In addition, it is necessary to actively engage and support global initiatives aimed at data collection. When corruption exists, a person may bribe officials in government agencies such as the police, military, or gun licensing departments. Criminals may use bribes or other forms of bribery to obtain gun licenses, or they may possess guns even without the proper permits. In addition, this may also include falsification of documents confirming the legality of gun ownership.

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[11] Global Firearms Trafficking Survey. (2020). https://www.unodc.org/documents/firearms-protocol/2021/Global_Study_Compedium_UKR.pdf

[12] Sustainable Development Goals. (2015). https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals

In particular, criminals are able to falsify licenses, permits or other documents to conceal their illegal possession of weapons. Increased access to weapons for criminals due to corruption schemes undermines law and order and poses a threat to civilian security. Combating this problem requires effective measures against corruption in law enforcement and regulatory bodies, as well as strengthening control over arms trafficking and strict liability for violations in this area.

Another factor that contributes to the increase in crime is the lack of investigation and punishment for crimes due to corruption in law enforcement. If law enforcement agencies do not effectively investigate and punish those who commit armed crimes, this creates a sense of impunity among criminals and leads to an increase in such crimes and their spread in society. And an ineffective law enforcement system is often shaped by a high rate of corruption. Moreover, if corrupt practices in law enforcement agencies go unpunished, this contributes to the spread of corruption in other sectors of society.

Policing plays a fundamental role in any society, serving both law enforcement and the criminal justice system. The police are entrusted with a broad range of responsibilities, including maintaining internal security, managing public disturbances, and fostering positive relationships with communities to build trust. Alongside this extensive mandate, the principles of respecting human rights, promoting community relations, and upholding the rule of law are crucial values in policing. Even in highly developed societies, instances of human rights violations, police brutality, misconduct, corruption, and criminal activities within police departments can occur and tarnish their reputation when exposed.

The primary driver of corruption is the absence of robust accountability mechanisms. When police officers are subject to investigation and consequences for their wrongdoings, instances of police corruption tend to decrease. Conversely, when officers are not held responsible for misconduct or other inappropriate behavior, corruption tends to flourish. This phenomenon is observable in both modern democracies and conflict-ridden regions. In post-conflict or conflict-afflicted areas, police misconduct can become more prevalent. As the primary representatives of the state and enforcers of the law, police misconduct erodes public trust in the legitimacy of both the police force and the government[13]. Thus, the impunity created by corruption can create a perception that criminals can get away with it. This directly contributes to the growth of crime.

In addition to the above, corruption generally has a negative impact on state security and the defense sector. First, corruption harms the security of citizens by increasing crime. Second, corruption can lead to low combat readiness of the military forces. Inadequate maintenance and poor-quality equipment can reduce the effectiveness of military operations and increase risks for the military. Moreover, corruption in the defense sector can pose a threat to national security. The loss of funds in corrupt schemes can lead to insufficient funding for important defense needs, such as the purchase of military equipment and training of military forces.

In the security and defense sector, there are legal means of combating corruption, which include special anti-corruption functions and powers for various actors at three levels of the hierarchy: at the level of the head of state and senior political leadership, at the level of functioning of special state anti-corruption institutions, and at the departmental level within the national security and defense system.

It is important to note that this practice is widespread in most modern countries. Ukraine also uses a similar approach, where legal instruments for combating corruption in the security and defense sector are applied at these three levels[14]. In general, corruption in the security and defense sector can lead to a decrease in combat readiness, loss of national security, a breach of trust in the government and police, and a negative impact on international relations. All of these consequences, in turn, create the basis for an increase in crime in the country.

Thus, it can be stated that all the negative consequences highlighted above are interconnected and have a common source - corruption. The proliferation of weapons and lack of accountability for their trafficking contribute to the growth of crime, which threatens the safety of citizens and national security. Corruption in the security and

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13 Singh, D. "The Causes of Police Corruption and Working towards Prevention in Conflict-Stricken States." *Laws* 11, no. 5 (2022): 69.

14 Pashchenko, E., and Chalyi, M. "Legal Instruments for Combating Corruption in the Security and Defense Sector of Ukraine: Essence and Features." *Scientific Notes of Vernadsky TSU. Series: Public Management and Administration* 5 (2022): 132-136.

defense sector affects public confidence in the government and can lead to destabilization of the country. To address these problems, comprehensive measures must be taken, including strengthening anti-corruption mechanisms, increasing responsibility and punishment for corrupt practices in the security and defense sector, and raising public awareness of the consequences of corruption for society and the state. Only under these conditions can we achieve a reduction in crime and increase the overall security of the country.

Countries or regions where corruption has led to armed crime and increased armed crime, and examples of successful anti-corruption efforts

There are many countries in the world where high levels of corruption have led to an increase in crime. Let's take a look at some of the most striking examples from some regions and countries that demonstrate how entrenched corruption has affected the crime rate. Let's start with Africa. According to the UN Global Firearms Survey. In Africa, the largest number of seized weapons was recorded in Angola and Kenya. Pistols predominated here, but a significant number of machine guns were seized in Tunisia and assault rifles in Burundi.

A. Relationship between crime and corruption in focused African countries

In the Central African Republic, apart from miscellaneous weapons such as grenades, handguns, and cannons, the rest of the seized weapons were mostly rifles and assault rifles. However, many countries in Africa have lower capacity to intercept and report smuggled weapons, resulting in underreporting of some firearms. In addition, the overall numbers reported by countries include seizures not directly related to smuggling. Based on seizures made by customs authorities at the border, rifles are on par with handguns. This suggests that firearms such as shotguns may play a more significant role in global smuggling schemes than the available data indicate[15].

In some African countries, such as Nigeria and Somalia, corruption is deeply entrenched in the system of government and can

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[15] "Global Firearms Trafficking Survey," *supra* note 11

have an impact on armed conflicts and terrorist groups. In the presence of corruption, criminals can more easily access weapons. For example, Somalia ranks at the lowest position in the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index, a survey conducted by the corruption monitoring organization Transparency International[16], which assessed 180 countries. Consistently facing extreme poverty and grappling with its most severe drought in four decades, Somalia has failed to attract relief food agencies due to the conducive environment it has created for corruption. Primarily, the dysfunctional institutions that have emerged take responsibility for the ongoing corruption as they facilitate mismanagement. The absence of any regulatory mechanisms to tackle the issue allows corruption to persist widely[17].

Corruption affects the rule of law and law enforcement. The police and judiciary can be vulnerable to corrupt influence, making it difficult to fight crime and imposing additional burdens on the population. Crime in Somalia is also linked to the ongoing armed conflict and corruption. Armed groups can use corruption to finance their activities and to provide themselves with weapons[18].

These criminal activities exert a substantial adverse impact on their gross domestic product, thereby influencing the national economy. In the context of Somalia, more than half of the stakeholders, including the government and its partners, have cited factors such as conflict and political vulnerability, natural hazards, insecurity, weak rule of law, and poor governance as primary drivers of poverty in the country[19]. Somalia is also recognized as one of the least progressive nations concerning corruption, which is considered a major contributor to crime, instability, and poverty.

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16 Transparency International. "Corruption Perceptions Index." (2022). https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2022

17 Ngila, F. "Somalia Is the Most Corrupt Country in the World." Quartz. (2023). https://qz.com/somalia-is-the-most-corrupt-country-in-the-world-1850063626

18 Chêne, M. "Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Somalia. Transparency International. Anti-Corruption resource Center." (2012). https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/helpdesk/337_Overview_of_corruption_and_anti-corruption_in_Somalia.pdf

19 Fitri, F. A., Syukur, M., and Justisa, G. "Do the Fraud Triangle Components Motivate Fraud in Indonesia?" *Australasian Accounting, Business and Finance Journal* 13, no. 4 (2019): 63-72.

Additionally, some studies have found that regions and local governments with higher levels of financial crime and other forms of corruption tend to have lower cost-effectiveness in public expenditure. This, in turn, has a detrimental impact on economic growth, service delivery, and human resource management. Corruption of any kind fosters mismanagement, inequality, unemployment, and poverty, thus impeding the development of any society. In another country, this issue is also very relevant. In Nigeria, a survey conducted in 2017 found that 95% of Nigerians engage in bribery. While financial crime poses a challenge to all nations, it is especially impactful on emerging and developing countries, making them more susceptible to the consequences of financial crimes, including fraud and related offenses[20].

Nigeria received a score of 24 out of 100 on the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International[21], where a lower score indicates a higher level of corruption. In terms of score-based rankings, Nigeria was placed 150th out of 180 countries in the Index. In this ranking, the country at the bottom is perceived to have the most corrupt public sector.

The discovered foreign currency was suspected to have been obtained fraudulently from the Nigerian oil subsidy program. Instances of fraud can be observed in various Nigerian government ministries, where government officials abuse their positions to defraud their respective organizations. This assertion finds support in a series of fraud cases involving the Nigerian pension board, the Nigerian Police Force, and even the federal higher court of Nigeria. Notably, the Nigerian Police Force has been ranked as the country's most corrupt public institution[22]. As Nigeria's police force is the most corrupt in the country, this has serious implications for society and the security of the country as a whole. Corruption in law enforcement, and in the police in particular, creates a fertile environment for crime, including armed crime.

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20 Kulmie, D. A. "Financial Crimes in Somali Public Sector: Causes and Consequences." *International Journal of Economics and Finance* 15, no. 4 (2023): 18-34.

21 "Corruption Perceptions Index," *supra* note 16

22 Rabiu, A. M., and Mansor, N. "Fraud Prevention Initiatives in the Nigerian Public Sector: Understanding the Relationship of Fraud Incidences and the Elements of Fraud Triangle Theory." *Journal of Financial Crime* 25 (2018): 1-18.

First, when the police have a reputation for being the most corrupt, it reduces public trust in law enforcement and government institutions in general. Citizens may avoid reporting crimes to the police or even refrain from cooperating with them.

Secondly, police corruption can facilitate crime through low law enforcement effectiveness. Police officers involved in corrupt schemes cannot properly solve crimes or even protect criminals, which contributes to the growth of criminal activity.

Thirdly, corruption can encourage people to engage in criminal activity, as they may feel that in order to achieve their goals or protect themselves, they must pay bribes or engage in corrupt practices. Thus, the problem of police corruption has a significant impact on the overall crime rate in Nigeria, including gun crime, and requires serious attention and reform.

B. The impact of corruption on crime rates: some Latin American countries

Latin America is a region that faces complex problems of corruption and armed conflict, and these two phenomena interact with each other, having a serious impact on the security and stability of the countries in the region. Corruption in law enforcement and the government sector can lead to the unauthorized proliferation of weapons. In the case of Latin America, where some of the countries have problems with insufficient regulation and control of firearms, corrupt officials can help illegal groups and criminals gain access to weapons. This poses a threat to public safety and can support crime.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, Colombia and Argentina reported the highest number of firearms seized. However, no comprehensive data were available for Brazil. Leaving aside weapons that are not classified as firearms/light weapons and small arms, as well as any other firearms/light weapons and small arms that could not be classified and counted, the Americas is the region with the highest percentage of pistols (52 percent on average) and revolvers (24 percent)[23]. Based on the data of the Corruption Perceptions Index by

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[23] "Global Firearms Trafficking Survey," *supra* note 11

Transparency International, these countries are ranked 91 (Colombia) and 94 (Argentina and Brazil) respectively[24].

It is worth noting that some Latin American countries, such as Colombia, are facing protracted armed conflicts and insurgencies. Corruption can influence these conflicts, as criminal organizations may receive support or protection from corrupt officials, which encourages them to continue violence. Political corruption in Colombia has been fueled by a range of factors, such as drug trafficking, ongoing guerrilla and paramilitary conflicts, limited oversight and regulation by institutions, the intimidation and victimization of individuals who expose wrongdoing, and a general societal indifference toward addressing unethical conduct.

Nearly half of Colombians, specifically 49 percent, perceive corruption within the military, while 61 percent hold a similar belief about the police. The prevalence of military personnel, police officers, and other armed forces accepting bribes has led to a lack of consequences for many criminal activities. Consequently, criminal behavior has become ingrained in society, resulting in a rise in crime rates[25].

At the same time, only 2.9 percent of the population regards corruption as a primary concern. Corruption has become so ingrained in Colombian society that the majority tends to overlook it, prioritizing other issues like increasing crime rates and inadequate healthcare. Regrettably, many of these challenges stem from corruption. The prevailing public indifference perpetuates corrupt practices[26].

Corruption and armed conflict jointly contribute to the growth of crime in the region. Illicit arms trafficking, murders, kidnappings and other crimes can result from this interaction. Citizens may feel insecure and feel their safety is threatened. In summary, corruption and armed conflict in Latin America are interrelated, with a wide range of negative consequences for security, the economy and society.

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[24] "Corruption Perceptions Index," *supra* note 16

[25] Casallas, V., and Lucia, O. "Corruption Crimes in Colombia: Socio-cultural, Institutional and Criminological Variables." *Diversitas: Perspectivas en Psicología* 6 (2020): 181-199.

[26] Thatte, S. "10 Facts About Corruption in Colombia." (2018). https://borgenproject.org/10-facts-about-corruption-in-colombia/

C. Examples of successful anti-corruption efforts in Africa and Latin America

However, there are also examples of countries in the world that have successfully overcome their problems with corruption and significantly improved the security environment within their countries. A country from Latin America is a good comparison. If we have discussed the problems of corruption and its impact on the number of crimes in Latin American countries such as Colombia, Argentina and Brazil, then we will take a country in this region that has successfully overcome corruption as a comparison. Chile is such an example.

According to the Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International, Chile ranks 27th out of 180 (where the country ranked number 1 is perceived to have the most honest public sector)[27]. This indicates a very low level of corruption. It is even lower than in some European Union countries. Chile is one of the countries that has made significant progress in fighting corruption and reducing armed crime. Chile has adopted numerous anti-corruption measures and a judicial reform aimed at improving the independence and efficiency of the judiciary. This has helped to ensure that corruption cases are handled fairly and without political interference.

The Chilean government actively promotes transparency in operations and public financing, which has helped prevent dark corruption and increased trust in public institutions. Improvements in governance and law enforcement have also contributed to a reduction in crime in Chile. Police reform measures and improved street safety have contributed to stability and reduced armed crime.

Moreover, civil society in Chile is actively involved in the fight against corruption. Protests and public pressure on the government help to identify corruption cases and demand accountability. As a result of these measures, Chile has achieved improvements in the fight against corruption and reduced the level of armed crime. This country serves as an example of how an effective fight against corruption can improve the overall state of affairs in society.

Botswana is a successful example of fighting corruption in Africa. Its ranking according to the Corruption Perceptions Index by

27 "Corruption Perceptions Index." *supra* note 16

Transparency International is 35th[28]. For example, Spain ranks the same. And a number of EU member states (Italy, Latvia, Czech Republic, etc.) have even lower rankes. The rapid growth of corruption in Botswana was curbed by the following measures: increasing the salaries of officials while reducing their number and simplifying the structure of government agencies, as well as immediate and inevitable sanctions for any manifestations of corruption.

Botswana is an excellent example of a country that has successfully fought corruption and demonstrated a high level of transparency and efficiency in the management of public resources. Botswana is recognized for its high level of transparency in the work of its government. Government information and finances are available to the public. This helps to prevent the propensity for secret corruption[29].

An important factor is the political will of the authorities to fight corruption and increase transparency in government structures. Botswana's judicial system is renowned for its independence and efficiency. The presence of independent judges and judicial authorities helps to consider corruption cases objectively and in a timely manner. In addition, the Botswana government prohibits its officials from owning businesses that have contracts with the public sector[30]. This limits conflicts of interest and helps prevent corruption. Botswana also conducts systematic state audits to check the use of public funds. This helps to identify corruption cases and take measures to eliminate them.

As a result of these measures, Botswana has achieved a high level of transparency and the absence of systemic corruption in government agencies. The country serves as an important example of a successful fight against corruption and the creation of an effective governance system. Now let's compare the level of corruption and the crime index (the list of countries is arranged in terms of corruption reduction from the most corrupt to the country with the lowest level of corruption) (Table 1):

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28 *Ibid.*

29 Isbell, T., and Seabo, B. "Corruption Crossroads? Rising Perceptions of Graft Weaken Citizen Trust, Threaten Botswana's Democratic Standing." (2020). https://www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ab_r8_policypaperno68_botswana_corruption.pdf

30 Jones, D. S. "Combating Corruption in Botswana: Lessons for Policy Makers." *Asian Education and Development Studies* 6, no. 3 (2017).: 6-24.

TABLE 1. Level of corruption and the crime index

Country	Corruption place (1 - least corrupt, 180 - most corrupt)	Crime rating (1 - most dangerous, 133 - safest)
Somalia	180	31
Nigeria	150	15
Argentina	94	17
Brazil	94	8
Colombia	91	28
Botswana	35	40
Chile	27	39

Source: World Population Review[31].

So, we see a directly proportional relationship. Of course, many factors can influence the crime rate. However, a small study of 7 countries from two regions proved that corruption plays a major role in the number of criminal offenses, the proliferation of weapons and the reduction of the overall level of security in the country. Thus, corruption has an impact on gun crime.

At the same time, the examples of Chile and Botswana show that with the right approach and public policy, it is possible to eradicate corruption and improve the financial and security situation in the country. Therefore, the examples of these countries can serve as guidelines for those countries where there is still a high level of corruption.

Ways to fight corruption and reduce armed crime

The above examples of states have shown that even if they are located in the same region and have similar conditions and certain historical commonalities, they can treat corruption differently and eradicate it, and with it, reduce the number of armed crimes. The first and very important factor, in our opinion, is the political will of the government. Political will means that the government is ready to take decisive measures to prevent, detect and punish corruption, regardless of how high up the officials or power structures may be involved in corruption schemes.

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31 World Population Review. "Crime Rate by Country." (2023). https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country

The government should abolish immunity for high-ranking officials when it comes to corruption offenses. In general, the existence of a strong political will in the top leadership of the state to fight corruption and implement a unified state anti-corruption policy is an important condition. This policy should cover a wide range of areas, including legislative, administrative, economic, social and legal measures. Even the best anti-corruption laws and measures will be ineffective if there is no will of the authorities at all levels to implement and enforce them[32].

In our opinion, the second equally important factor is the position of society. As noted above in the example of Colombia, society often no longer realizes the existence of the problem of corruption and does not consider it the basis of all state problems. However, our research shows that corruption has a direct impact on the country's economy and the security of its citizens, including through increased crime. Therefore, a strong public position on eradicating corruption and combating corruption-related crimes is an important factor in stopping such activities.

For example, civil society organizations have several advantages that make them particularly effective in the area of social responsibility. Some of these organizations may be highly skilled in monitoring government activities, while others may be experienced in mobilizing citizens to participate in public protests. Compared to international actors, domestic civil society organizations may have a deeper understanding of the local level of corruption, which can help them develop effective anti-corruption strategies[33].

Voters and citizens can influence political representatives and the government through active participation in elections and public actions. This allows them to elect representatives who support anti-corruption measures and provide support for reforms. Public pressure can be a powerful tool in the fight against corruption. Mass protests, public

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32 Shvydkyy, Ya. "Foreign Experience Against Corruption and the Possibility of Its Implementation in Ukraine." *Expert: Paradigm of Legal Sciences and Public Administration* 1, no. 7 (2020): 219-227.

33 Bader, M., Hus, O., Meleshevych, A., and Nesterenko, O. "Civil Society Against Corruption in Ukraine: Ways of Influence." (2019). http://hnpu.edu.ua/sites/default/files/files/biblioteka/3.2%20Working_paper%201_ukr.pdf

campaigns and the media can highlight corruption schemes and demand action from the government.

The third important step to overcome corruption is a proper justice and law enforcement system. Public officials should be held seriously accountable for negligence, abuse of power or authority, or dissemination of confidential information for personal gain[34].

This should include disciplinary liability of the civil servant to his or her immediate supervisor, but also criminal liability. And the application of this responsibility should be consistent, it should be used every time the relevant state bodies fail to fulfill their duties. At the same time, systematic measures and constant monitoring are of primary importance. A proper judicial system should be independent from the influence of political factors and corrupt groups. Courts should be empowered to consider corruption cases objectively and without interference. Practice shows that observers from non-governmental organizations and social movements present in the courtroom have a highly mobilizing effect on the work of Ukrainian state institutions[35].

Police and other law enforcement agencies should have the resources and skills to investigate corruption cases. Their effectiveness lies in stopping corrupt practices and bringing perpetrators to justice. In addition, the work of law enforcement agencies should be open and transparent. Information about investigations and trials should be made available to the public to avoid possible attempts at pressure or collusion. It is important that those guilty of corruption are brought to justice and punished accordingly. This may include confiscation of property, loss of office, and punishment in accordance with the law.

The fourth factor is the existence of adequate legislation to combat corruption and the crimes it generates. Laws that clearly define corruption crimes, their elements and the corresponding penalties provide law enforcement agencies and courts with the necessary legal framework to investigate and prosecute corruption. These laws may include crimes such as bribery, bribe solicitation, abuse of office, etc.

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[34] Shevchenko, A. I., Kudin, S. V., Frantsuz-Yakovets, T. A., Kunytskyy, M. P., and Zahrebelna, N. A. "Problems of Determining the Structure of the Principles of Legal Responsibility in Ukraine." *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law* (2023). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-023-09985-y

[35] Kramek, B. "Impunity of Criminals as a Key Factor of Corruption." (2015). https://www.pravda.com.ua/columns/2015/03/30/7062822/

Legislation and justice processes should be open and accessible to the public. People should know their rights and obligations and be able to assert them in court.

In a general sense, legislation is a fundamental element of society that helps to create order, protect people's rights and freedoms, and ensure the functioning of society in a large and complex world.

The fifth step is the institutional level of anti-corruption in the form of specialized bodies. Such bodies exist in many countries. France has its own experience in fighting corruption. In 1993, it established the Central Anti-Corruption Service. It has such important functions as centralizing information necessary for the prevention (detection) of active and passive corruption, as well as assisting judicial and investigative authorities in cases of their requests. The Central Service informs the Public Prosecutor of the Republic about the investigation[36].

The system of organizational and legal mechanisms for fighting corruption in Italy is effective, where NGOs and government agencies work closely together to address this problem. The country's parliament established a special General Council for Combating Organized Crime. Along with the General Council, there are district departments for combating organized crime and the mafia, and a separate State Department for Combating the Mafia[37].

Ukraine has also established an institutional system of anti-corruption bodies. These bodies play an important role in the fight against corruption, as they are specialized in this issue and have the necessary resources and powers to implement effective anti-corruption measures.

The sixth factor includes the transparency and openness of governing bodies, as well as the establishment of a system of proper reporting of corruption cases. Any information that gives rise to reasonable suspicion that a crime has been committed should be reported to the competent authorities[38]. Mechanisms for encouraging and fostering a culture of reporting are a set of means, enshrined in local

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36 Shvydkyy, "Foreign Experience Against Corruption and the Possibility of Its Implementation in Ukraine.," 219-227.

37 Chemerys, I. V. "Foreign Experience in Combating Corruption in the System of Public Administration." *Strategic Priorities* 3, no. 12 (2009): 110-118.

38 "Impunity of Criminals as a Key Factor of Corruption," *supra* note 35

regulations, by which the institution promotes the proper reporting of corruption, respect for whistleblowers, and encourages employees to report corruption.

Each institution should develop an internal document that defines the mechanisms for encouraging and fostering a culture of reporting and the procedure for their implementation, systematically monitor its implementation, and take measures aimed at its implementation. Such a document may include a regulation on mechanisms for encouraging whistleblowers and fostering a culture of reporting.

South Korea has been highly praised for its achievements in the fight against corruption. The anti-corruption strategy of this country is based on the principle of openness in the decision-making process of public officials at various levels. In particular, they have implemented an anti-corruption initiative called OPEN, which has proven to be an effective tool. The approach of the country's leadership to the key goals of anti-corruption policy is also important, including optimization of the system of public administration bodies to ensure transparency and absence of corruption; rational decentralization of the economy and uniform regional development; active participation and unification of the people in political reforms.

The seventh step is to ensure that society is properly informed about the need to combat corruption. The media can play a key role in raising public awareness of the problem of corruption. Information campaigns, articles, interviews, and TV and radio programs can highlight examples of corruption, its negative impact on society, and facilitate discussion of possible measures to overcome it. Inclusion of corruption issues in the educational process helps to develop anti-corruption values among young people. Education programs, trainings, and information materials can provide citizens with the knowledge and skills to identify, prevent, and detect corrupt practices. It is important that these different aspects cooperate and complement each other to maximize the effectiveness of fighting corruption and raising public awareness of it.

The last factor is international cooperation. Many countries have acceded to international conventions, such as the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), 2003, and other international agreements that provide for anti-corruption measures. The most important obligations of the state's parties to the Convention in the public sector include the need to establish and maintain a system of recruitment, service, promotion and retirement of civil servants based on criteria such as integrity, ability and fairness. These documents provide a framework for legislation and international cooperation in the fight against corruption[39].

The 1995 Convention on the Protection of the Financial Interests of the European Communities is associated with the concept of corruption, which is considered to be bribery (in the context of abuse of office). The parties to this Convention have undertaken the following obligations: to criminalize the offenses set forth in the Convention and to apply effective and appropriate penalties for the commission of such offenses; to determine that national courts have jurisdiction over cases related to this Convention, depending on the residence or nationality of the suspect or accused; to ensure that nationals can be prosecuted and extradited to the courts in case of refusal to extradite them.

This Convention is aimed at combating corruption and protecting the financial interests of the European Communities and provides for the establishment of liability for crimes in this area at the national level and their prosecution through national courts[40].

The above documents are only an example of the functioning of the system of combating corruption and armed crime at the universal and regional levels. In reality, the legal framework is much broader and includes an extensive system of relevant international legislation.

International organizations, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and various development funds, can allocate financial resources for anti-corruption reforms in recipient countries. This may include financing projects to increase transparency, improve the justice system and strengthen anti-corruption institutions. In general, it should be noted that despite the fact that the issue of international cooperation is among the last to be addressed, its importance is extremely important, especially in the context of

[39] UN General Assembly. "United Nations Convention against Corruption." (2003). https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/uncac.html

[40] Convention drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the Protection of the European Communities' Financial Interests. (1995). https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A41995A1127%2803%29

combating corruption at the international level and the need for a global strategy of criminal liability. International cooperation is an important tool in the global fight against corruption and armed crime, as such crimes can be transboundary and require coordination of efforts of different countries to effectively combat them.

Strategies to Combat Corruption: Insights from International Experiences

In the context of ways to overcome corruption based on the analysis of the experience of foreign countries, it is worth noting the work of Shvydkyy[41]. The authors highlight that the successful strategies employed by developed nations in combatting corruption underscore the importance of a comprehensive and principled approach to addressing these challenges. It is noted that numerous countries have formulated and implemented dedicated anti-corruption legislation to implement targeted measures.

In the context of investigating the impact of corruption on arms trafficking and the growth of armed crime, it is important to note the work of Kutsyi[42]. In his work, the authors emphasize that offenses associated with the illegal trade of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and explosive devices constitute a significant danger to both individuals' safety and the security of the nation. Frequently, severe and exceptionally serious criminal activities are preceded by unlawful actions such as possessing, storing, obtaining, producing, transferring, selling, transporting, stealing, or extorting weapons. The objective of is to examine and assess the specificities of security agencies' utilization of resources and methods in countering the illicit trafficking of weapons and ammunition.

Important for analyzing the subject matter of the article is the opinion of D. Singh[43]. He noted law enforcement agencies, typically the police, play a crucial role as the first line of defense in maintaining law

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41 Shvydkyy, "Foreign Experience Against Corruption and the Possibility of Its Implementation in Ukraine.," 219-227.

42 "Illegal Weapons Trafficking in Ukraine: Concepts and Problems of Solution," *supra* note 10

43 Singh, "The Causes of Police Corruption and Working towards Prevention in Conflict-Stricken States," 69.

and order and initiating the criminal justice process. They bear significant responsibility for upholding the principles of law and order, making their integrity paramount in preserving public trust in the legal system and ensuring internal security. When instances of police corruption are uncovered or perceived to be widespread, it erodes trust in the police force and hampers community relations. Moreover, a tarnished reputation of the police also has adverse effects on the government's legitimacy. This issue becomes even more problematic in societies characterized by violent divisions or those embroiled in armed conflicts. The author focuses on identifying the root causes and repercussions of police corruption in such hostile environments. He also introduces a range of preventive measures aimed at combating corruption and restoring public faith in both law enforcement and governance.

Important conclusions about the impact of corruption on crime in Africa are contained in the research of D.A. Kulmie[44]. His work is aimed at an in-depth analysis of corruption in the financial sector in countries such as Somalia and Nigeria. This study was based on the Fraud Triangle Theory and Fraud Diamond Theory, which identify pressure, opportunity, rationalization, and capability as critical factors in the commission of financial crimes. While these factors play a substantial role, the research results indicated that the opportunity factor, particularly related to inadequate internal audit and control mechanisms, weak governance, and improper duty segregation, is the most significant contributor to financial crimes in the Somali public sector and in Nigeria.

Despite the fact that the issue of corruption as an independent phenomenon and its impact on armed crime has been studied by scholars from many countries, this phenomenon still exists. This shows the need for further research into ways to overcome it. One such measure could be the creation of a global strategy on criminal accountability. The global strategy of criminal liability is a set of measures, approaches and policies aimed at regulating and liability for crimes at the international level. This strategy envisages the creation of unified standards and international conventions that regulate criminal

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44 Kulmie, "Financial Crimes in Somali Public Sector: Causes and Consequences," 18-34.

liability for certain types of crimes, such as corruption, terrorism, crimes against humanity, war crimes, etc.

The goal of the global strategy of criminal liability is to ensure global cooperation in the fight against transborder crime, increase the level of accountability for serious violations and protect human rights at the international level [45]. In our opinion, the relevant international coordination can take place at three levels: legislative (through the conclusion of international agreements and conventions that standardize criminal liability for corruption and armed crimes and establish international mechanisms for cooperation in the field of justice); institutional (through the creation of relevant institutions with powers to detain suspects and investigate crimes; diplomatic (through direct cooperation of states to coordinate joint policies to combat crime).

The legislative method is the basis of any cooperation, as the relevant legal norms must be laid down in legal acts. In the mid-1990s, most countries in the world recognized corruption as a global problem. After that, regional and international intergovernmental organizations took an active role in preventing corruption. This activity has led to the adoption of a wide range of international legal instruments and recommendations developed by organizations such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union and the Organization of American States.

A significant achievement in the international fight against corruption is the adoption of the 2003 UN Convention against Corruption, which we mentioned earlier. This document is the only universal and legally binding instrument in the fight against corruption. Currently, 181 countries that have signed the Convention are implementing the measures recommended by the document to overcome corruption[46.]. For Ukraine, the Convention entered into force on January 1, 2010, which means that Ukraine has officially committed

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45 Lohvynenko, B. O., Sezonov, V. S., and Frantsuz-Yakovets, T. A. "Tendencies for the Falsification of Medicinal Products in Ukraine: General Analysis and Areas of Counteraction." *Wiadomosci Lekarskie (Warsaw, Poland : 1960)* 72, no. 12 cz 2 (2019): 2478-2483.

46 "United Nations Convention against Corruption," *supra* note 39

itself to comply with the provisions of this Convention[47]. Also, worth noting in this context are two documents adopted within the Council of Europe: Criminal Law Convention[48] and the Civil Law Convention on Corruption[49]. Both conventions are part of the Council of Europe's efforts to combat corruption comprehensively, addressing both the legal and practical aspects of this global issue. Member states that have ratified these conventions commit to implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption within their jurisdictions and cooperate with other signatory countries in these efforts.

Criminal Law Convention on Corruption is primarily focused on criminalizing corrupt practices and related offenses. It aims to strengthen the legal frameworks of member states to effectively combat corruption in both the public and private sectors. Key provisions of this convention include defining various corruption-related offenses, establishing liability for legal persons (such as companies), and promoting international cooperation in investigating and prosecuting corruption cases. The convention encourages countries to adopt measures to prevent corruption, including the development of codes of conduct for public officials and the protection of whistleblowers.

In contrast to the Criminal Law Convention, the Civil Law Convention on Corruption primarily deals with non-criminal aspects of corruption, such as recovery of assets acquired through corrupt practices, compensating victims of corruption, and measures related to civil liability. This convention provides legal mechanisms for the recovery of assets derived from corruption, making it possible for states to confiscate and return stolen assets. It also addresses issues related to compensation for damages caused by corruption and the establishment of civil liability for corrupt acts. Like the Criminal Law Convention, it encourages preventive measures and international cooperation.

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[47] Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. "On Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Law of Ukraine No. 251-V." (2006). https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/251-16#Text

[48] Criminal Law Convention on Corruption. (1999). https://www.coe.int/en/web/impact-convention-human-rights/criminal-law-convention-on-corruption#/

[49] Civil Law Convention on Corruption. (1999). https://www.whistleblowers.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/civil-convention-explanatory-notes-1.pdf

It is also worth noting the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime[50]. This convention is aimed at combating organized crime, including corruption, which is often associated with this type of crime. The Convention marks a significant advancement in the global effort to combat transnational organized crime. It reflects the acknowledgment by Member States of the gravity of the challenges posed by such crime and underscores the importance of fostering strong international collaboration to address these issues effectively. Countries that endorse this agreement commit to a series of actions against transnational organized crime.

These actions include establishing domestic criminal offenses such as participating in organized criminal groups, money laundering, corruption, and obstructing justice. Additionally, they commit to implementing comprehensive extradition and mutual legal assistance frameworks, enhancing law enforcement cooperation, and supporting training and technical assistance initiatives to strengthen the capabilities of national authorities. International legal acts in this area have a single goal - to establish common standards for combating corruption at the national level through criminalization and implementation of measures to prevent corruption[51].

The second is the institutional level. Various international organizations, such as the UN, the World Bank, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and others, work to combat corruption and provide support to states in this regard. However, there are also specific bodies designed to combat cross-border crime. For example, transnational firearms smuggling is a complex crime that often has fatal consequences. In order to effectively combat this phenomenon, member states and the international community should invest in further research on the existing links with other security threats and develop appropriate multisectoral approaches. Corruption is often also transnational in nature. The institutional level of countering corruption at the international level is seen as an important element in the global

[50] UN General Assembly. "United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime." (2000). https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html

[51] Kovalova, O., Korniienko, M., and Postol, O. "Ensuring the Child's Dignity as a Principle of Modern Education: Administrative and Legal Aspects." *Asia Life Sciences Supplement* 21, no. 2 (2019): 341-359.

fight against this phenomenon and contributes to joint efforts of states to overcome it.

Today it is worth noting an International Criminal Police Organization or INTERPOL. It is is an intergovernmental organization that facilitates international police cooperation. It was established in 1923 and is headquartered in Lyon, France. INTERPOL acts as a bridge between law enforcement agencies of different countries, helping them collaborate in the fight against transnational crime, including organized crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, cybercrime, and more. INTERPOL's mission is to facilitate international police cooperation, promote the sharing of information and expertise, and support member countries in their efforts to combat transnational crime. It operates with strict respect for human rights and in compliance with national laws and international agreements. INTERPOL plays a crucial role in enhancing global security and public safety.

We believe that at the international institutional level, the fight against transnational crime is extremely effective and should be expanded. In addition, members of such organizations should act independently of their state of citizenship to fight crime and prevent its spread. This will help them to act more impartially and independently of their states.

The third level is diplomatic. This level of anti-corruption at the international level means cooperation between states and international organizations to develop and implement strategies, agreements and policies aimed at combating corruption. The diplomatic level may include information exchange, joint investigations, conclusion of international conventions and agreements on combating corruption, as well as diplomatic efforts to engage countries in joint commitments to fight this phenomenon.

Conclusion

Corruption creates a negative environment in which crime, including armed crime, can flourish. The interaction between armed crime and corruption has many aspects, and one of the most important is the ease of access to weapons through corruption. This problem takes different forms and exists in different countries, but the general trend is that corruption can provide criminals with illegal access to weapons by breaking laws and regulations. Criminal elements may try to influence officials responsible for controlling the circulation and issuance of weapons through bribery or other illegal means. This may lead to the provision of legal weapons to individuals who would not otherwise be eligible to receive them. Armed crime through corruption requires serious investigation and severe punishment to ensure law and order and public safety. The fight against this problem involves increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies, strengthening international cooperation and focusing on fulfilling international obligations.

Based on our analysis, we observe a direct correlation. Of course, many factors can influence the crime rate. However, the study, which covered seven countries from two regions, shows that corruption plays a significant role in increasing the number of criminal offenses, proliferation of weapons and threatening the overall security of the state. Thus, corruption does have an impact on gun crime. However, examples of successful anti-corruption efforts in Chile and Botswana show that with the right approach and public policy, it is possible to overcome this problem and improve the financial and security situation in the country. Therefore, the experience of these countries can serve as an example for other countries where the level of corruption remains high. Among the factors that help to combat corruption are the following: political will of the state leadership; public attitude; effective system of justice and law enforcement; legislative framework for combating corruption; establishment of an institutional level; transparency and openness of government bodies; establishment of a system of proper reporting of corruption crimes; proper level of public awareness; international cooperation.

The authors emphasize that cross-border crimes, such as arms trafficking, smuggling, and corruption, can spread rapidly across borders and affect several countries simultaneously. Countering such crimes helps to reduce their spread. Combating cross-border crime requires international cooperation and information sharing between countries and international organizations. This helps to establish common standards and increase the effectiveness of combating these crimes. In summary, combating transborder crime is an important aspect of ensuring overall security and stability in the international community. Corruption and other crimes it generate can be effectively countered if three levels of counteraction are clearly defined at the international level: legislative (adoption of relevant legal acts); institutional (establishment of independent investigative bodies); and diplomatic (cooperation of states, exchange of information and facilitation of investigations). All of this makes the global strategy of criminal liability extremely important and necessary for ensuring law and order and security at both the national and international levels.

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"Integrity, transparency and the fight against corruption have to be part of the culture. They have to be taught as fundamental values."

Angel Gurría, OECD secretary general

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