“THE NEXUS BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME”

SESSION IV: EUROPE

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The Directorate (DNA)

• The National Antimafia and Antiterrorism Directorate (DNA) was established in 1991 as national coordination body for antimafia investigations
• It has no direct or operational investigative power
• Its antiterrorism mandate was added in 2015 in accordance with UNSC res. 2178
• It is composed of 23 public prosecutors (1+2+20)
• Its work is supported by a protected national database that collects information from all 26 prosecution offices having jurisdiction on mafia and terrorism crimes.
Jurisdiction

District Capital

1

A

B

C ....

...... Z

DISTRICT LEVEL
Jurisdiction

In order to address the complexity of crimes related to mafia and terrorism, relevant investigations are conducted only by the prosecution offices of the 26 district capitals.

The positive consequences of this are: higher specialization of prosecutors; more effective cooperation with law enforcement; and better coordinated use of information/evidence.
Information

DNA (NATIONAL DATABASE)
The DNA national database is dedicated to collecting any and all information emerging from every investigation dedicated to mafia and terrorist crimes carried out by the 26 district offices.

This information may consist, inter alia, in individual ID, vehicle plate, home address, weapons, air travel tickets, telephone number, content of telephone conversation, information provided through investigative interrogations...

Any information received by the national database is matched by the system with all existing data, and any meaningful output is reported back to the prosecution office by the DNA. When appropriate, the information is communicated by the DNA to the different prosecution offices interested in receiving it.

In case of concurrent or potentially connected jurisdiction between two prosecution offices, the DNA activates its coordination mandate.
Coordination
National Central Authority

The DNA acts as a point of reference for the exchange of information with, inter alia:

• Law Enforcement
• FIU
• Intelligence
• Private Sector
International Cooperation

• Foreign prosecution offices
• Relevant EU Authorities
• Support for MLA and extraditions
• Guardia di Finanza and financial investigations
• FIUs
• Bilateral MoU(s)
• (Facilitating) Joint Investigations
• (Providing) Technical assistance
Some Outputs (1)

a) Currently under investigation: connection between persons belonging to Italian mafia groups and traffickers in oil coming from territories that were under ISIL control

b) Connections between persons belonging to the Sicilian mafia and a well-known oil trafficker in Libya, who was part of a criminal group also managing trafficking in persons. Yet another suspect - member of the same criminal network - was identified as a supporter of the Libyan branch of Al Nusra
c) Upon information from Northern Europe Countries related to possible financing of terrorism, Italian investigators obtained evidence of connections between persons belonging to the Camorra, mainly active in the forgery of documents and money, and a person who was sentenced as a member of a terrorist group related to Al Qaida;

d) More than one investigation highlighted clear existing connections between persons belonging to Italian mafia groups and persons belonging to African criminal groups active in Italy in different sectors (i.e., trafficking in persons; prostitution; drugs). The proceeds of such crimes are often managed through ad hoc credit cards and cryptocurrency and transferred abroad via the “dark web”. It is to be noted that confidential information underlines the existence of agreements between these African criminal groups and members of Boko Haram
Some Outputs (3)

A final example:

1. The investigation started with a financial analysis (performed by Guardia di Finanza) not specifically focused on terrorism funding but on irregularities in the money transfer system occurring within a specific area of the Italian territory.

2. Even when a different explanation for these irregularities emerged (in this case, the trafficking of migrants from Syria to Italy through the Balkan route), the investigation continued into those subjects who appeared to potentially have terrorist connections.

3. The investigators made full, best use of computer-based interception and international cooperation (the main suspect, a person who in the past was leading a few companies in Italy, was currently based in Sweden), detecting connections with a terrorist group active in Syria and finding clear evidence of a system of money collection throughout Europe, based on the “Hawala system”. The money was then transferred to Syria and Turkey.
Some Outputs

4. Most of the people active within the network and ordering money transfers resulted as engaged in criminal activities (smuggling, drug or arm trafficking, money laundering).

5. Italian legislation, which provides for lighter sentences, protection and other beneficial measures for suspects collaborating with justice, was successfully applied to obtain important evidence of the multiple forms of support provided by the network to a terrorist group.

6. Lastly, the delicate instrument of undercover operations was used to obtain vital evidence of the connection between criminal sources and terrorism financing.

Thank you for your attention!

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