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MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY AT THE BORDERS

MINISTÉRIO DA JUSTIÇA E SEGURANÇA PÚBLICA

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Organized Crime and Terrorism

Roberto Troncon

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Organized Crime and Terrorism

In this section, we will address the relationship between organized crime and terrorism. Although terrorism is a phenomenon with varying classifications, it shares several points of convergence with criminal groups in terms of structuring logistics chains and the use of money laundering networks. However, it is essential to highlight that **terrorist groups are distinguished from criminal groups by their motivation, objectives and use of violence**.

Organized Crime and Terrorism

The definition of terrorism adopted by the United Nations identifies it as any intentional act aimed at causing death or serious injury to civilians or non-combatants. These acts are intended, by their nature or context, to intimidate the population or force a government or international organization to take or refrain from taking certain actions. This view is also reflected in the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism (2002).

Organized Crime and Terrorism

In the region, countries have gradually increased their adherence to international instruments to fight terrorism, especially regarding terrorist financing. However, the report by the International Financial Action Task Force (FATF) analyzes the difficulties faced by countries in the region in promoting coordinated actions against terrorism, both domestically and internationally. This includes deficiencies in the information available in institutions involved in criminal prosecution and money laundering prevention.

Organized Crime and Terrorism

The operation of terrorist groups in the region is facilitated by the extensive and growing presence of organized crime, as well as porous borders that allow the continuous flow of drugs, weapons and other illicit products and services. Although organized crime and terrorism are distinct phenomena, they are connected through the common use of the same logistics chain of illegal services.

Organized Crime and Terrorism

Monitoring the financial resources that support terrorist groups is another crucial area of attention. The complexity lies in the way the illicit economy and the formal economy intertwine. To face this challenge, interdisciplinary action between different entities is essential, such as police, customs inspectors, migration agents, members of the Public Ministry, economists and risk analysts. Furthermore, building indicators to monitor suspicious financial flows requires strong collaboration between public and private sectors.

Organized Crime and Terrorism

Given the transnationality of this phenomenon, it is essential that national bodies expand their activities beyond borders and that international and regional institutions are created, such as the International Financial Action Task Force (FATF), to coordinate efforts to combat terrorism and money laundering.

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