

Organized Crime In Canada

Originating as pirates, organized crime has flourished to become something more feared than all the Hook's to be found in a fish and tackle store. Sicily embraced followed this concept when they began a secret organization of army militant who were hired by landowners to protect their property against the common bandit raids. This organization began to get larger and stronger as they ridded the lands of the thieves and slowly realized they had the potential to do more. Unfortunately, their fight for good deviated into a ruthless business run by cutthroat criminals who terrorized people they used to protect. The Sicilian Mafia has crumbled and in it's place thousands and thousands of new enthusiastic groups have risen not just in Sicily but on an wide international scale. Organized crime exists everywhere, Toronto has not been an exception. Canadian law-enforcement aren't systematic in combating the evils of organized crime as they disappointingly realize the difficulties shared by law-enforcement agencies across the globe.

Canada has armed itself with unlimited arsenal of information on criminals across the four hemispheres. The Interpol, composed of over 125 countries aimed in one objective : To eliminate international crime. The headquarters situated in France has vital information about aliases, associates, and methods of crime of over 1,000,000 individual criminals. The Criminal Intelligent Service of Canada (CISC), keep records on triad members who are involved in drug-trafficking, gambling, extortion, prostitution, money-laundering and other crimes relating to the mafia. Lying on Dundas and Spadina in our very own city nests Division 52, readily equipped with a special organized crime unit monitoring the Greater Metro. With a quick phone call or a click of the mouse, officers can access information on any criminal in the world.

Unluckily, this is not significant when the Crown cannot even present enough evidence to motion a trial to court. The success on the mafia has relied greatly on their ability to intimidate others in thinking they are 'above the law'. Threatening bodily harm, blackmail and assasination are many of the few ways the underworld has created the 'untouchable' image they receive from society. This Godlike reputation has unsurprisingly explained why over on third of the crimes committed in 1990 are left unreported. Jury tampering is relied on heavily in court trials, when the fear factor does not succeed, they attempt to win jurors through bribes of obscene amounts of money. Asau Tran, a veteran in the Vietnam War, who practiced and perfected his skills in a Chinese refugee camp literally got away with murder in 1983. A day after a raid on one of his clubs on Oxford and Spadina, he shot and killed another Vietnamese man. He was charged and tried, almost destined for imprisonment, when the vital witness who was set to testify against him simply 'went south'.

The Code of Omerta is a Sicilian generated ethic stating one must not apply for justice in the legal authorities and never assist anyway in the detection of crime. Translated in many languages, this code of honor has become a burned in quality all loyal members possess towards their organizations. From this attitude to the law, members have extremely strong contempt against the guardians who withhold it. The code frustrates many policemen because they cannot withdraw information from arrested or detained uncomplying gang members. There are little people willing to testify against one another in court and the majority would rather face perjury charges than disgrace others and themselves in the eyes of the underworld. Quach Luy Mau, a skinny 19 Chinatown associate was called as a witness in the slayings of his friends Dan Vi Tran and Chan Tat Tieu. He had been asked to identify the gunmen who shot his friends on December 27, 1990 when he stated "I'm 100 percent sure it's him". He immediately followed this with "But after that, I think carefully, I look carefully, I say no... I even say 100 sure it's not him too".

Although 'Dirty Harry' cop techniques frequently less practiced, they still exist. During interrogation the questioned is placed under extremely unbearable situations, some use direct physical force, others use slow painful torture methods. There has always been the conventional, hang-cuff followed by the brutal beatings the cops give the offender; we also must not forget the cruel punishment of not being able to drink while basking in front of a lamp for twenty-four hours. She (more often he) is placed in this state until she is willing to assist officers. Not recognized by the Criminal Code, police can be charged with numerous counts of assault, but these testimonies are rarely seen before a court. Recently though, even this method has begun to lose its effectiveness. 'With Asians it does not work. If you rant and rave, lose your temper, lose your cool, imply that you are a lesser individual and so forth, they will simply turn you off, even when you come in with a good cop later.' says Mr. Hart an investigator. If unlawful methods are unsuccessful in scaring criminals.. what is?

Foreign criminals are taking advantage of cultural gaps to baffle western police. The police have not come into terms fully with such cultural differences between Ethnic organized and non-ethnic gangs. One problem is the language barrier, since most Canadian police officers are not fluent in Cantonese, they do not know how to translate names reliably into the English equivalent. There has, however been the ancient system known as the Standard Telegraphic Code that assigns certain characters to a number for 1 to 10,000 that has been recently implemented to the police databases. That means each criminal will have his/her own specific code in the police files. This system would have helped snare a well-known heroin smuggler who stopped for a speeding infraction. The police only ran part of his name through the computer, found nothing and let him go, realizing only when it was too late what a mistake it was.

A gloomy headline on the Montreal Gazette reads 'Montreal only solved one-third of Montreal Murders'. Although virtually undetectable, approximately fifteen percent of all murders in Montreal are related to organized crime. Statistics Canada may not be entirely accurate, it claims out of every one-hundred murder, three are linked to organized crime. Donald Lavoie took part in at least 27 killings and killed at least 17 people over a period of four years. He was hired and acted as the group's enforcer and was primarily hired to assassinate targets the organization had marked. For some reason in 1990, Donald fell out of favor with the organization and was ordered to be killed himself. In fear, Lavoie turned informer and testified in several murder cases and shed light in sixty-seven cases that formerly were basically classified as unsolved. In exchange, he was granted immunity from the murders he was part of, but not some other crimes and was placed under police protection. Plea bargaining is not recognized by the Criminal Code, but it is an effective and widely used procedure law-enforcements take to prosecute in the best interests of society.

In the United States there exists a law called the Anti-Organized Crime Law. Without this law, it is legal in Canada to join and associate with an organized crime gang whereas in the United States one could immediately arrest a person who showed these signs. This has hindered law-enforcement because they see known criminals associating with one another and yet, they cannot take any action. Gun control levels are not strict enough and there are not enough resources to allow victims and witnesses of a crime to speak. Canadian legislature also generally gives out more lenient punishments and the offenders are eligible for parole quicker than our south that makes Canada seem like a virgin country whose penalty is merely a slap on the wrist.

Canadian police are just beginning to realize the difficulty of prosecuting organized crime in an orderly fashion. As organized crime is spreading rapidly and with technology changing the police are only beginning to adapt to a high-tech criminal environment. This new age of criminals are harder to detect and alot smarter. In order for the police to gain ground on these mobsters they must use new technology to capture these criminals. Over a billion dollars a year is lost through credit card fraud which the police has yet to unravel. Since wire tapping is illegal in Canada without a court order the police are hard pressed to capture criminals by covert operations.

The youths of today is now becoming more and more violent, these teenagers are becoming the next Mafia. This can be attributed to the portrayal of Mafia in the movies, these movies such as the GodFather and many others have shown the glamorous side of organized crime but not really touched upon the consequences and danger involved in this type of

crime. Today the behavior of young people have become much worse, in 1990, 47% of the population agreed with the above statement, but now 64% of the population agrees with on 7% saying that teenagers are becoming better.

The laws of Canada have restrained instead of aided law-enforcement. Through orderly investigation, law-enforcement is taking the right step towards overcoming the many barricades of organized crime. They must work together with the community involved hand-in-hand to ignite the fire which will be the downfall of organized crime. Soon, we will see a country, where the world underground, only retains to below sea level. Hopefully this day will be soon, hopefully I will live to see it.

militant keeps assassination lied on heavily in court trials. Wo." exist twenty-seven assassinate an enforcement Officers must carefully work within the boundaries and lines that have been drawn for them by society. godfather law enforcement barricade that Instead of aiding law enforcement, the legislature in Canada has restrained officers from performing their function The and Italy have passed a law Tized Crime Law. Without this border, it is legal in Canada to join, and recruit OT