



CENTER FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY WATCH

Open Governance | Anti-Corruption | Organized Crime | Data Science | Research | Capacity Development

Office Address:
No. 11, Ado-Ekiti Close,
Off Emeka Anyaoku Street,
Area 11, Garki - Abuja.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME IN AFRICA (24 – 25 OCTOBER 2023, ABUJA, NIGERIA)

COMMUNIQUE

1. Background

The Centre for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch successfully hosted a two-day International Symposium on “Countering Organized Crime in Africa”. The event held on 24th and 25th October 2023 at the Shehu Musa Yar’adua Centre, Central Business District, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria.

2. Participants

Over 350 participated physically at the event and resource persons were drawn from the following institutions and agencies:

Office of the National Security Adviser	Federal Inland Revenue Service	Ministry of Interior	Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy	Nigeria Defence Academy
Police Service Commission	Federal Road Safety Corp	Defence Intelligence Agency	Nigerian Army Resources Centre	National Assembly
Nigeria Police Force (Office of the Inspector General of Police)	International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)	Analytics for a Better World	Nigerian Air Force	National Board for Technology Incubation
Force Criminal Intelligence Bureau	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Alumni Association of the National Institute	Federal Ministry of Technology	Nigeria Customs Service
Department of State Security Services	Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit	Nigerian Correctional Service	Federal Road Safety Corps	Ministry of Police Affairs
Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency	Bureau of Public Service Reforms	Nigeria Deposit Insurance Company	Central Bank of Nigeria	Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria
Economic & Financial Crimes Commission	National Environmental Standard and Regulation Enforcement Agency	National Agricultural Seed Council	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons	Nigeria Deposit Insurance Company
Force Criminal Investigation Department	Corporate Affairs Commission	Development Bank of Nigeria	Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative	Code of Conduct Bureau
Federal Ministry of Justice	Nigerian Correctional Service	Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission	Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps	National Agency for Food & Drug Administration & Control
Nigerian Bar Association	Nigerian Television Authority	Nigeria Immigration Service	Federal Ministry of Technology	Ministry of Interior

National Youth Service Corps	University of Nigeria Nsukka	Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre	NOI (Ngozi Okonjo Iweala) POLLS	Federal Capital Territory Administration
George .C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies	Cachez Design Limited	Sunrise Estate Development Limited	Space Aurora Limited	Twelve 23 Project Limited
Savannah Center for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development	Daily Trust	Alumni Association of the National Institute	Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development	Shehu Musa Yar'adua Centre
CLEEN Foundation	Home Health Product	Skynet Security	International Center for Investigative Reporting	Saving African Youths Dream Initiative
Connected Development	African Independent Television	Seplat Energy	Salford University, United Kingdom	African Centre for Media and Information Literacy
Centre for Media, Policy and Accountability	Partners West Africa-Nigeria	Premium Times Center for Investigative Journalism	Nasarawa State University, Keffi	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
PETRO-LOGISTICS	IFocus Consulting Limited	Association of Certified Fraud Examiners	Digital Grassroots	Analytics for a Better World
University of Lagos	Access Bank	Aspire Radio	KUSAB Limited	African Network for Environment and Economic Justice
HumAngle Media	Electoral College Nigeria	Dr. Ladi Kwali Foundation	United Pan-Africanist Movement	University of Ilorin
Ministry of Budget and National Planning	Info Nigeria	MCRC	TVC News	I-fitness
Members of Academia	Media Organizations	Other Civil Society Organizations	Online Media	Other Individuals

3. Observations & Recommendations Arising

At the end of the symposium, participants made valuable observations and thereupon recommended as follows:

- a) In view of the dynamic nature of organized crime, law enforcement agencies should de-emphasize militarized responses, prioritize strategic dialogue to promote and advance the quick resolution of civil conflicts, to effectively tackle the ever-evolving tactics of organized criminal groups.
- b) Organized crime ought to be addressed through a holistic approach, particularly in the proactive deployment of kinetic and non-kinetic strategies from collaborative institutional perspectives.
- c) There is an urgent need for continuous academia-practitioner dialogue, as a basis for knowledge exchange or sharing towards identifying new, effective, and

contemporary approaches to address and combat current and emerging trends in organized crime.

- d) Inter-agency cooperation and support ought to become the norm among law enforcement agencies within and outside the country to tackle organized crimes effectively.
- e) Relevant agencies should institute sustainable collaborative mechanisms with the local people in conflict-prone zones, as this would facilitate and optimize information gathering and intelligence sharing to strengthen law enforcement actions and operations.
- f) That authorities should empower security and law enforcement agencies with relevant critical technological enablers and the necessary tools to efficiently, and effectively anticipate, prevent, respond to, and manage conflicts and organized crimes.
- g) The local, state, and federal tiers of government should instigate deliberate, concerted efforts to build resilient institutions, foster staff training, cross-training, and re-training, and ensure only merit-based appointments within the security, law enforcement, and regulatory agencies.
- h) That there was an urgent necessity for appropriate agencies to effectively regulate and supervise all reporting entities, and to vigorously impose proportionate and dissuasive sanctions on such entities that fail to comply with national, regional and international anti-money laundering measures.
- i) Law enforcement agencies should invoke proportionate and dissuasive sanctions against offenders and consider eliminating plea bargains in the prosecution of serious offenders.
- j) There is an urgent need for the establishment of information fusion centre for the gathering and dissemination of intelligence in a timely and actionable format across relevant agencies for enhanced coordination and response.
- k) The embarrassingly widespread grand corruption arising from local and international oil theft within Nigeria's oil and gas sector must be confronted and curtailed through instant identification, shaming and punishment of public officers known to be involved in conspiring with and aiding the crude oil criminals.

- l) The issue of combatting public sector corruption is paramount as it's the enabler of all organized crime in Nigeria.
- m) To continuously reexamine the relationship with neighbouring countries to enhance border security.
- n) The foundation for building or rebuilding resilient institutions is the role of governance or effective and efficient utilization of human and material resources for the benefit of most Nigerians. The creation of economic opportunities in the short, medium and long term is critical in discouraging organized crime.
- o) The executive, legislature and judiciary should play their roles effectively to ensure that their conduct does not encourage and enable criminals to thrive.
- p) Nigeria has a significant role in Africa in countering organized crime.

Conclusion

We opine that relevant authorities driven by the Office of the National Security Adviser should consider the implementation of the recommendations to curtail the spate of organized crime in Africa.

Appreciation

We appreciate our partners from law enforcement, international organizations, civil society, media, academia and others too numerous to mention. We are particularly grateful to MacArthur Foundation Africa for their continuous support to our organization.

Signed



Umar Yakubu

Executive Director

2nd November 2023