



PRESS RELEASE

THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE BRINGS CIVIL SOCIETY VOICES TO THE 14TH UN CRIME CONGRESS IN KYOTO

As the space for civil society to engage at the UN continues to be challenged, the GI-TOC announces new reports and a series of events at the 2021 UN Crime Congress to showcase multiple perspectives and responses to organized crime with a particular emphasis on community-based, frontline actors.

GENEVA, Switzerland – 8 March 2021: The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) will host three online events at the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (7–12 March) to highlight the latest research, campaigns and programmes showcasing the role of civil society in countering organized crime. Experts, activists and officials will explore the challenges and threats that communities face owing to organized crime and articulate ways that local, national and international strategies against organized crime can improve.

On 11 March, the GI-TOC will also launch a major new report, '**The global illicit economy: Trajectories of organized crime**', to highlight the relationships between global mega-trends and the trajectories of organized crime since 2000, the year the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was adopted. Written from the perspective of civil society, the report draws on consultations with the GI-TOC's secretariat, its network of experts and recipients of the Global Initiative Resilience Fund, including nine regional consultations held in five regions.

The report launch event will discuss the publication and its implications for international responses to transnational organized crime as we move into the next decade. Journalist **Lindy Mtongana** will moderate the session, which will feature **Tuesday Reitano**, Deputy Director, GI-TOC; **Walter Kemp**, Director of the GI-TOC South Eastern Europe Observatory, **Summer Walker**, Senior Analyst and GI-TOC New York Representative, and guest speaker Ambassador **Jean-Paul Laborde**, Roving Ambassador for the Parliamentary Assembly of Mediterranean and Professor at the French Military Academy.

In an additional event on 11 March, the GI-TOC will present a preview of the forthcoming **Global Monitor of Assassinations**. The monitor records the stories of victims of targeted killings linked to organized crime and is part of the ongoing **#AssassinationWitness** campaign, which raises awareness of these assassinations to the international community. The panel will be moderated by GI-TOC analyst, **Ana Paula Oliveira**, with guest speaker **Agnès Callamard**, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

On 12 March, the Director of the GI-TOC **Resilience Fund**, **Siria Gastélum Félix**, will discuss how the fund identifies and empowers crucial civil society actors, building their operational capacity with the aim of creating networks of resilient communities against organized crime and violence. This session will provide a grassroots perspective on community and civil society responses to organized crime, which will be vital as key policymakers and influencers gather in Kyoto and online for the Congress.

The events will only be available for registered participants to live stream due to coronavirus restrictions. The GI-TOC will share recordings of these events to the general public following the Congress.

In the build-up to the Crime Congress, the GI-TOC's podcast series 'Road to Kyoto', hosted by **Ian Tennant**, GI-TOC Fund Manager, looks at the critical issues that will be discussed and debated at the Congress. Across nine episodes, the series explores cybercrime, drugs policy, human rights and the role of civil society in preventing and countering organized crime.

Find out more:

For more information on the events, [click here](#)

For more information on the podcast series, [click here](#)

For further questions please contact Claudio Landi (Claudio.landi@globalinitiative.net).

About the Global Initiative

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime is a network of professionals working on the frontlines of the fight against the illicit economy and criminal actors. Through a network of global civil society observatories on the illicit economy, we monitor evolving trends and work to build the evidence basis for policy action, disseminate the expertise of our Network and catalyze multisectoral and holistic responses across a range of crime types. With the Global Initiative's Resilience Fund, we support community activists and local NGOs working in areas where crime governance is critically undermining people's safety, security and life chances.

About the Crime Congress

Since 1955, the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice have brought together high-level representatives of governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and criminal justice professionals and scholars, to discuss common concerns, share experiences and seek viable solutions to problems related to crime prevention and criminal justice.