

# SHADOW WARS

## CONFRONTING THE HIDDEN NETWORKS SHAPING VIOLENCE

Session Two

Free six-part  
webinar series

Second session:  
9 June 2026

Time: 3:00-4:30pm  
(Yaoundé time)

Languages:  
French and English

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### INSIDE THE CRIMINAL NETWORKS

In Central Africa, mass violence is not the collapse of order - it is an **organized system**, built not on ideology, but self-interest.

Brokers and financiers. Logistics operators and shadow traders. Political enablers and corporate intermediaries. **No one acts alone.** Together, they form an interlocking structure that funds armed actors, shields illicit flows and ensures that violence remains profitable across borders and continents.

This session maps the **transnational criminal networks** most responsible for shaping and sustaining violence across the region. It moves beyond the frontlines to expose the networks operating beneath: a constellation of actors, each with a distinct role, motive and method, whose interests quietly converge to make the system work.

Drawing on **field-based research and concrete case studies**, leading experts will dissect specific types of actors within these networks - their functions, their methods, and, crucially, how they connect to one another. The result is a system greater than the sum of its parts, designed to be opaque, resilient and difficult to disrupt.

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION. HELP SHAPE THE SOLUTIONS.

Without confronting the underlying systems, peacebuilding efforts will continue to fall short and violence will persist. Experts and participants will have the opportunity to share innovative ideas through the interactive chat, contributing directly to a forthcoming white paper on strategies and instruments aimed at addressing the political economy of crime and conflict in the region.