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# FIGHTING TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME

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**Turkish academies increase professionalism in  
police forces around the world**

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Turkey has a long history of combating terrorism and transnational crime. The Turkish National Police (TNP) Academy, the International Center for Terrorism and Transnational Crime (UTSAM), and Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Crime (TADOC) support the operational responses of various law enforcement agencies by conducting training and scientific research in those fields.

### The Turkish National Police Academy

The TNP Academy started in 1937 with a mere one-year program for police managers. By 1984, it had developed into an official four-year bachelor's degree institution of higher learning. In April 2001, the Police Academy expanded into a police university that provides the option for police officers and police managers to become Turkish National Police through the Security Sciences Faculty, the Security Sciences Institutes and 27 Police Vocational Schools of Higher Education located throughout the country. Police Vocational Schools of Higher Education train police officers toward an associate's degree, the Security Sciences Faculty provides bachelor's degrees, and the Security Sciences Institute offers opportunities for master's degrees and doctorates.

The Institute of Security Sciences was founded under the TNP Academy in 2002 with nine departments: forensic science, criminal justice, security strategies and administration, intelligence studies, crime studies, transportation security and management, international security, international security (in English), and international terrorism and transnational crime. There are nine master's degree and two doctoral programs available at the institute.

The TNP Academy's goal is to provide the Turkish National Police with the human resources to run graduate and other training programs, carry out scientific research, create publications and consult with other agencies on security issues. In training future police managers, the academy places special emphasis on respect for human rights and strives to maintain the highest possible standards by observing the latest technological developments.

In addition, the TNP Academy is international. It has trained 1,085 police cadets from 20 countries since 1991, and 307 cadets from 12 countries are currently training at the Academy. In 2010, the academy proposed the formation of the International Association of Police Academies (INTERPA) to further improve its international outlook and cultivate fruitful relations among police academies around the world. INTERPA was established the next year with 24 police academies or equivalent institutions from 22 countries participating. TNP Academy professor Remzi Fındıklı has been the president of INTERPA since its inception.

### The International Center for Terrorism and Transnational Crime

UTSAM was established in 2006 under the TNP Department of Research Centers. The TNP Academy, with its highly qualified and specialized team of researchers, merges theory with practice and generates information predominantly for policymakers, decision-makers and practitioners in fields such as terrorism, transnational crime, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, drug trafficking, organized crime and cyber crime. Within this framework, UTSAM has improved cooperation with national and international research centers and security actors and organized numerous seminars, workshops, conferences and symposia. The Journal of International Security and Terrorism and other UTSAM publications contribute to the academic world of security sector professionals.



UTSAM holds its fourth International Symposium on Terrorism and Transnational Crime in December 2012 in Antalya, Turkey.

Turkey co-chairs the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), launched in New York in September 2011. The GCTF consists of a strategic-level coordinating committee with two thematic and three regional expert-driven working groups. Turkey and the European Union (EU) are co-chairing the "Horn of Africa Region Capacity Building" working group. A significant proportion of Turkey's work for the GCTF is undertaken by UTSAM.

Modern organized criminal groups employ complex and sophisticated methods. Therefore, the need for well-trained and well-equipped law enforcement agencies and agents is now greater than ever.

Turkey emphasizes the importance of a multisectoral approach to countering violent extremism and prepared a memorandum on “Good Practices for a Multi-Sectoral Approach to Counter Violent Extremism” that addresses the role of government institutions, agencies and civil society in countering violent extremism. Three studies follow to provide a better understanding of UTSAM.



#### UTSAM Study #1 IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION WITHIN TERRORIST GROUPS AND MEMBER PROFILES: THE CASE OF THE KURDISTAN WORKERS' PARTY (PKK) AND UNION OF COMMUNITIES IN KURDISTAN (KCK)

Many factors affect individual pathways toward involvement in terrorist organizations. Often, individuals are selected and

recruited by organizations, and from an individual's perspective, “triggering-accelerating factors” are important in the decision phase of recruitment. However, since terrorism is generally viewed on the macro-level, individual factors are often underappreciated because the identity construction processes of militants in terrorist organizations are shaped by individual life stories at the micro-level.

The issue of PKK/KCK terrorism and the Kurdish question are generally examined on a macro-scale and often conflated. The two issues should be separated. To grasp the issue of terrorism, the socio-psychological

conditions of individuals in the recruitment phase must be analyzed carefully. Analyses at both macro- and micro-level are required to present a picture that fully reflects the issue.

The purpose of this study is to explore terrorism – generally debated through macro-level discourses and perceptions reinforced by such discourses – at the micro-level. The strategies and methods of exploiting individual factors in the recruitment process, with respect to PKK/KCK terrorist organization in particular, are elaborated.

A profile of a typical PKK/KCK terrorist organization member, derived through analyses of individual members, can be summarized as follows:

- As a proportion of the population, most PKK/KCK members originate from the provinces of Hakkari, Tunceli, Siirt, Şırnak, Muş, Mardin, Bingöl, Bitlis, Diyarbakır and Batman.
- Unmarried males are most likely to join the terrorist organization. Seventy-seven percent of members are male. Only 8 percent are married, and there are fewer married female members than married men. Married members are more likely to surrender.
- Young individuals more readily join terrorist organizations. More than 75 percent of members are 34 years old or younger. The average member joins the organization between 15 and 21, similar to the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka (when kidnapped children are taken into account). However, younger fighters, those under 24, are more likely to surrender.
- About 72 percent of members have received a primary school education or less, while only 16 percent are high school graduates.







- Approximately 80 percent of members did not have any job before joining the organization. Seventy-one percent have no employed family members.

Thirteen percent of members have relatives in the organization. When analyzing terrorist organizations, it is important to make evaluations based on scientific data rather than societal perceptions. Though only 13 percent of PKK/KCK members have family members within the organization, the perceptual rate is 58 percent.

Socio-psychological problems constitute both the primary influence on individuals' decisions to join the PKK/KCK and the basic emotional source of feelings of marginalization. Trauma plays a crucial role in the construction of ethnic nationalism.

Some individuals who experienced primary or firsthand trauma joined the organization as a direct result of the experience. Today, young people are being exposed to secondary or learned trauma, in which they experience events that happened to others as if they happened to themselves.

When an individual feels ethnicity is to blame for his problems in life, minor triggering events may ensure the individual joins a terrorist organization. Though motivations differ, an individual's ethnic sensitivity is significant in his/her decision to join the organization. For the very young, it is difficult to point to ethnic consciousness or a deliberate process of decision-making, but rather, these individuals see

The Turkish National Police Academy provides various kinds of training to police at home and abroad. UTSAM

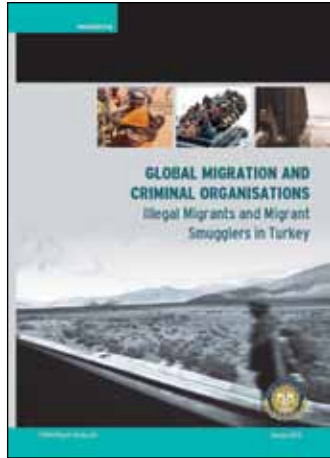


The Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime provides basic and expert-level training to law enforcement agencies across the world. UTSAM



friends, relatives or teachers as role models.

Socio-economic problems caused by misguided policies of the past, such as forced migration and village evacuations, have become today's main source of recruitment for the organization. From this perspective, migration is among the most important parameters of the Kurdish issue.



### UTSAM Study #2 GLOBAL MIGRATION AND CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS: ILLEGAL MIGRANTS AND MIGRANT SMUGGLERS IN TURKEY

The global problem of migrant smuggling has always been on Turkey's agenda, owing to its geographical and political position. Turkey's neighbors across its eastern/southeastern

borders are source countries. Political and economic turmoil and the proximity of prosperous Western countries make Turkey an ideal transit route for illegal migration from these countries. Moreover, Turkey has long, mountainous land borders that are difficult to control and provide opportunity for illegal migrants and human smugglers. Turkey serves as a bridge for illegal migrants to Europe, where they hope to start a new life.

Migrants, who begin their journeys with hopes for better futures and better living conditions, often resort to illegal organizations when they fail to reach their intended destinations through legal means. These human smuggling organizations, sometimes called "hope traders" or "opportunists of global migration," have emerged as alternatives to evade legal restrictions against global migration and function as intermediaries seeking material gain through illicit activity.

In this light, UTSAM conducted field research with the financial help of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) and technical support from the Department of Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime and the Department of Foreigners, Borders and Asylum, both of the Turkish National Police. The research consisted of face-to-face interviews with 86 illegal migrants, 54 migrant smugglers and 75 experts. Additional qualitative information was gathered from 1,334 illegal migrants and 106 smugglers.

Illegal migration is a way out for people desperately

struggling to survive economic and social turmoil and political instability. Economic expectations, facilitated by the similar experiences of others and eased by social bonds and networks, play a major role in illegal migration. Migration trends correlate with social, economic and political factors in societies. Migration generally increases after political and economic crises. There were 94,514 illegal immigrants apprehended in 2000, but the number declined in subsequent years and almost halved to 56,219 by 2003. The trend fluctuated downward for the remainder of the decade and reached a low of 34,345 immigrants in 2009. The decline continued in 2010, but jumped again in 2011 with 44,415 illegal immigrants apprehended.

Turkey has traditionally been a transit country for migrant smuggling, but has increasingly become a destination in recent years. Many illegal immigrants who stay in Turkey settle in densely populated and socially heterogeneous cities such as Istanbul and Izmir. Most illegal immigrants in Turkey are young males with low incomes and education who work as unskilled laborers. Even people who leave their countries mostly for economic reasons say that war and political conflicts also influence their decision to leave. Greece, as an eastern gateway into the EU, is the main goal of illegal migrants. After Greece, Italy, Germany, France, Canada, Switzerland, Austria, and the United Kingdom are among the most preferred countries among illegal migrants.

Migrant smuggling is primarily organized by crime syndicates that have international connections and operate for financial gain. Organizers exploit the desire of people to move to economically and socially beneficial countries. Migrant smugglers in Turkey are usually married and poorly educated male Turkish citizens in their 30s and 40s. Because of economic and social problems such as lack of education, security, and employment in the eastern and the southeastern provinces of Turkey, people living in those regions often resort to such illegal activities to make a living. Smuggling charges vary depending on distance, the border policies of the destination country, means of transportation and methods of migration. It is estimated that Turkish migrant smugglers earned at least \$300 million in 2011.

Migrant smugglers primarily use land transport, but sometimes use sea and air routes as well. Smugglers constantly improve concealment and transport techniques and often use a variety of land and sea vehicles, including automobiles, trucks, buses, minibuses and boats.

The complex and transnational nature of migrant smuggling requires active cooperation at the national and international level to effectively counter it and the



An audience attends an UTSAM conference. UTSAM

associated problems of money laundering, organized crime and terror finance.



**UTSAM Study #3**  
**WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING PREVENTION STRATEGIES AND TACTICS TO COUNTER RADICALIZATION JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY NATO AND UTSAM**

The workshop was held as part of UTSAM's second Symposium on International Terrorism and Transnational Crime in December 2010 in Antalya, Turkey. Thirty-seven papers

were presented by 48 national and international experts during seven sessions, at the NATO-supported Science for Peace and Security Program.

In their presentations, security experts examined how NATO member states combat terrorism and explored potential future methods for counterterrorism success. Special emphasis was placed on the quality and nature of relations among NATO member and nonmembers.

**Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime**

Modern organized criminal groups employ complex and sophisticated methods. Therefore, the need for well-trained and well-equipped law enforcement agencies and agents is now greater than ever.

Based on a strong belief in international cooperation, Turkey has supported every initiative aimed at combating international drug trafficking. Strong cooperation is vital in achieving success in the fight against organized crime. With this understanding, TADOC was established in Ankara in June 2000 under the Department of Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime and within the





Süleyman Özeren, center, and Kamil Yılmaz, right, attend a conference held under the auspices of UTSAM. UTSAM

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Economic Cooperation Organization, Black Sea Economic Cooperation, NATO-Russia Council, and the Colombo Plan for

framework of Turkish-United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) collaboration.

TADOC is the leading training academy for the region and is referred to by the UNODC as a “Center of Excellence” while its programs and services are regarded as “best practices” around the world. TADOC provides training to the law enforcement personnel from countries with which Turkey signed bilateral cooperation agreements and treaties.

Professional and skilled law enforcement personnel play a pivotal role in combating drugs and other forms of transnational crime. The key to having qualified personnel is training, which is the main instrument for capacity building and sustained learning. Therefore, TADOC has devoted significant efforts and resources to train high-quality personnel in the region.

TADOC is one of the best training centers in the world, offering basic and expert level training in counternarcotics and fighting organized crime. As demand for TADOC training increases each year, TADOC successfully continues its mission to identify and meet the training needs of law enforcement agencies around the world. Reinforced by Turkey’s successful experience in the field, TADOC training reflects a harmonization of theory and practice. TADOC is also a significant contributor to training projects associated with the

Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific.

TADOC mobile teams bring the training to the trainees. This is especially beneficial because most TADOC training needs to be implemented in an environment familiar to the trainee. TADOC training is based on student-centered and constructive learning principles, and students are encouraged to become actively involved in the learning process. Since its establishment, TADOC has implemented 380 international training events with the participation of 6,844 law enforcement personnel from 86 countries. At the national level, TADOC has held 721 training events with the participation of 22,892 law enforcement personnel.

### Summary

Because of its geographical location and socio-political and economic conditions, Turkey has historically experienced high levels of transnational organized crime such as terrorism and drug smuggling. To fight these crimes, Turkey continuously strives to stay current on international practices and technological developments while maintaining a balance between security and individual rights and freedoms. At the center of these efforts, the country has placed special emphasis on international cooperation through the creation of these vital academies and research institutions. □