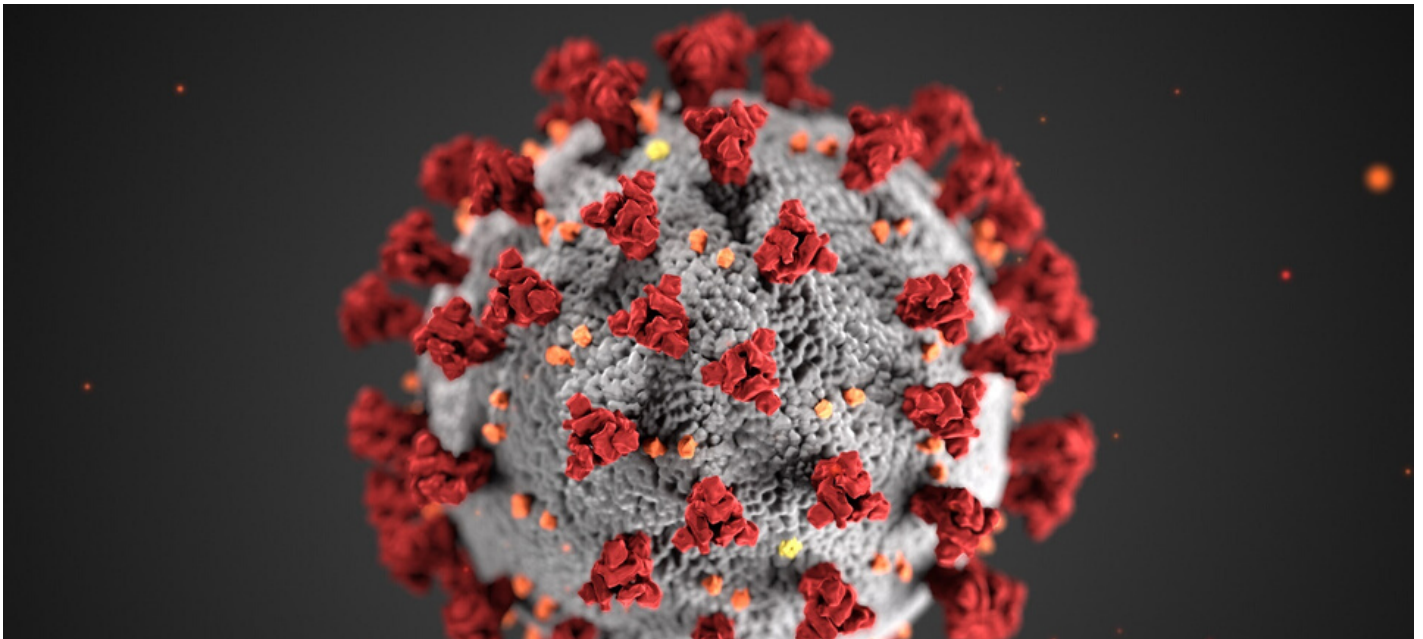


The SHERLOC Team is pleased to share with you Issue No. 14 of our newsletter regarding our recent efforts to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and the international legal framework against terrorism.



In this issue

FEATURED CASE:
*PHILIPPINES VS. UNDISCOVERED
KENNETH ISA*

**RECENT AND
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

**REGIONALIZATION OF
E4J TEACHING
MODULES**

MEET A CONTRIBUTOR

EDITORIAL: COVID-19 AND ORGANIZED CRIME

In the past weeks and months, the world has seen the spread of an unprecedented pandemic. The novel coronavirus COVID-19 has now infected more than one million people worldwide and caused more than 70,000 deaths. The SHERLOC team would like to take this opportunity to wish you, our users, and your loved ones safety and good health in this difficult time.

While people around the world have come together to help each other during the pandemic, providing care to friends and family and making charitable donations, others have sought to exploit the tragedy of others for their own gains.

In numerous countries, police have been investigating the manufacture and sale of falsified medical products by organized criminal groups. Falsified medical products are medical products which deliberately or fraudulently

misrepresent their identity, composition or source. Both medicines and medical products may be falsified. Falsified medical products may contain harmful substances which can have severe effects on health.

Falsified face masks, substandard hand sanitizers and unauthorized antiviral medications were seized by law enforcement agencies in 90 countries taking part in INTERPOL's Operation Pangea XIII in March. This operation resulted in 121 arrests, the dismantling of 37 organized criminal groups, and the seizure of medical products worth more than USD 14 million.

Organized criminal groups are also seeking to exploit COVID-19 online in a variety of

ways. The coronavirus crisis has been used by cybercriminals to lure victims into online phishing scams, to distribute malware and ransomware, and to gain unauthorised access to computer systems.

Legislation addressing cybercrime and falsified medical products related crime can be found on SHERLOC's legislation database. The SHERLOC team is also monitoring investigations and prosecutions of criminals exploiting the pandemic with a view to the inclusion of relevant judicial decisions on SHERLOC's case law database.

Take care and stay healthy,
the SHERLOC team

FEATURED CASE: PHILIPPINES VS. UNDING KENNETH ISA

On 24 September 2016, the Anti-Transnational Crime Unit of the Philippine National Police (PNP) carried out a raid of a residential building in the Barangay West Crame neighborhood in San Juan City – just several hundred meters away from the PNP's national headquarters. During the raid, the police discovered an entire arsenal of assault weapons, including grenade launchers, M14 and M16 rifles, as well as ammunition and explosives. The total value of the cache was estimated at 6 million Philippine pesos (approximately 124,500 USD).

According to the police chief, these armaments were prepared to be handed over to the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) - a militant separatist faction designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations for its links to Al-Qaida. The ASG, mostly active in the southwestern island provinces of Sulu and Basilan, became notorious for its multiple attacks against civilian targets and the wide use of kidnapping as a self-financing tool. The police further noted that most of the seized weapons and ammunition had been traced back to the government arsenal.

During the raid, the police also made an



Director General Ronald dela Rosa, chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), presents seized weapons and ammunition to the media
Image: Manila Bulletin

arrest of Mr. Unding Kenneth Isa, an alleged leader of a gun-running syndicate, as well as his three purported accomplices – however, all of them, except for Mr. Isa, were later released due to lack of evidence. Mr. Isa was accused of 16 counts of illegal possession of firearms, as well as of one count of illegal possession of explosives. On 23 March 2018, the Regional



Left: The weapons cache seized by the police during the raid on the hideout in San Juan City. Right: Mr. Unding Kenneth Isa at a news conference in Quezon City shortly after his arrest in September 2016

Images: Mindanao Examiner

Trial Court of Pasig City found Mr. Isa guilty on all counts, prescribing a minimum duration of imprisonment of over 330 years.

This process gained extensive coverage in the media, since it presented the first major-scale conviction of an arms trafficker purportedly affiliated with the Abu Sayyaf Group since 2014 – the year in which the group’s leader Isnilon Hapilon pledged allegiance to the ISIL/Daesh. This case also presented an interesting example of the treatment of linkages between organized crime and terrorism in a national legal system. Even though the police held a strong suspicion that

the arms cache collected by Isa was meant for ASG militants, the prosecutors chose to pursue charges based only on Mr. Isa’s criminal activities (illegal possession of firearms and explosives), rather than on his potential complicity to a terrorist offence. This decision, therefore, could be indicative of the high standard of proof ascribed in the Philippine legal system to terrorism offences.

This feature has been adapted from the original SHERLOC case entry. To find out more about this case, click [here](#) to access it on SHERLOC.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Workshop on SHERLOC and MLA in terrorism cases, Islamabad, February 2020

On 20–21 February 2020, the SHERLOC team delivered a two-day workshop on SHERLOC and mutual legal assistance in terrorism cases in Islamabad, Pakistan. The workshop included a presentation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and an introduction to SHERLOC and UNODC’s international cooperation tools such as the Directory of Competent National

Authorities (hosted on SHERLOC) and the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool.

The workshop also included presentations of several cases from the SHERLOC case law database and UNODC’s Education for Justice (E4J) University Modules to explore linkages between terrorism, organized crime, and trafficking in firearms. These included a presentation on the ‘Lord of War’ case, *USA v Viktor Bout* by Riikka Puttonen (Organized Crime Branch), a presentation on Abu Sayyaf Group by Dmitry Orlov (Terrorism Prevention Branch), and a case study on the AlphaBay and Hansa Market dark web marketplaces by Colin



Craig (Organized Crime Branch).

The workshop also included a session in which participants were able to draw upon their own expertise with the legal framework combating organized crime and terrorism in Pakistan and provide UNODC with up-to-date Pakistani legislation, which has since been uploaded to SHERLOC.

To find out more about the workshop held in Islamabad, read about it online [here](#).

Above: Riikka Puttonen, UNODC, presenting to the workshop in Islamabad. Below: group photo of workshop participants.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Working Group on Technical Assistance

The twelfth session of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance, established by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) will be held in Vienna on 9 and 10 July 2020.

The twelfth session of the Working Group will include an agenda item on updating the legislative records of States parties to UNTOC on SHERLOC, in preparation for the commencement of the UNTOC Review Mechanism. States parties are encouraged to

review their legislation implementing provisions of UNTOC and the Protocols thereto and submit this legislation to the Secretariat for upload to SHERLOC. During the twelfth session of the Working Group, members of the SHERLOC team will attend to assist representatives of States parties in uploading their legislation to SHERLOC.

The twelfth session of the Working Group will also include an agenda item on the application of UNTOC in domestic jurisprudence. Experts are encouraged to provide the Secretariat with court files showing application of UNTOC within their State for inclusion in SHERLOC.

REGIONALIZATION OF E4J MODULES FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Under the umbrella of its Education for Justice (E4J) initiative, UNODC is committed to produce quality educational material to support professors around the world to teach on crime prevention and criminal justice related issues, including organized crime. As part of this effort, the E4J Organized Crime Module Series, originally published in April 2018, was recently enriched with case studies and other relevant resources focused on Eastern and Southern Africa in order to provide national and regional specific material to professors and trainers in those countries.

The regionalization of the E4J Module Series is the culmination of a participatory process during which educators from across Eastern and Southern Africa met in Mombasa, Kenya in June 2019 for an Expert Workshop focused on organized crime and wildlife crime. During this three-day event, participants shared case studies and good practices for inclusion in the E4J Module Series, and considered effective approaches to teaching the

material in universities and training institutes across the region.

The E4J initiative forms part of the UNODC's Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration. It is closely linked with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which emphasizes the importance of education for ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all.

The SHERLOC and E4J teams work closely with each other to make the most of synergies between their work. Case studies used in E4J Module Series are often based on cases published on SHERLOC's case law database. Likewise, new case studies developed for the E4J Module Series are also included on SHERLOC.

The enriched E4J Organized Crime Module Series is freely available on the [E4J website](#).



Above left and right: photos from the Expert Workshop on organized crime and wildlife crime held in Mombasa in June 2019

MEET A CONTRIBUTOR



This issue's featured contributor is Dmitry Orlov. For the past one and a half years, Dmitry has been the focal point for terrorism in SHERLOC, coordinating the creation and maintenance of the terrorism segment in each of the five databases of the portal. Having completed an internship with UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch, Dmitry rejoined the Office as a Youth UNV in September 2018 to work on innovative solutions for knowledge management and electronic technical assistance in countering terrorism. Aside from SHERLOC's terrorism segment, Dmitry is also leading the Branch's work on the UNODC Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform – an online tool that has proven indispensable for delivering legislative and technical assistance to the worldwide community of practitioners during the current COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

Dmitry Orlov has a degree in International Relations from the Moscow State University of International Relations and a Master's in Advanced International Studies from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna/University of Vienna. His past work experience includes a stint in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia and an AML/CFT role with an investment management firm, as well as a research fellowship on anti-corruption issues with the Regional Academy on the United Nations.