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### **CRIME THREATS IN TURKEY**

There is minimal risk from crime in Istanbul. Even though Istanbul is Turkey's largest metropolitan city, Istanbul's crime rates as they relate to foreigners are very low. Remain aware of the potential for petty crimes such as pickpocketing in popular tourist areas and other crowded locations. Although not very common, petty crime can also occur in locations such as the airport as well as on public transportation, including on buses, dolmuses (hop-on hop-off for pay mini-bus), trolleys, and the metro. Credit card and ATM usage is relatively safe with few reports of fraud, including in locations catering to international clientele.

U.S. citizens have reported a particular kind of scam in Istanbul that targets male tourists traveling alone. The victims are unsuspecting tourists lured into bars in the Taksim area or near Fatih neighborhood. The ultimate goal of the perpetrator is to get the victim intoxicated and then relieve him of his belongings such as backpacks, bags, electronics or other valuable items. Instances of this type of scam occur more often in the summer, at the peak of the tourist season, and are most likely underreported [1].

#### **Turkey's Contributions in the Fight Against Drug Trafficking**

Due to its location Turkey is exposed to extensive flow of licit and illicit goods. This location lies at the crossroads of the heroin production sites in Afghanistan and consumption markets in Europe. Turkey is also intensively exposed to the growing ATS and precursor trade between Europe and the Middle East. Turkish counter-narcotics policy is based on three pillars. The first pillar focuses on joy, the fight against domestic distribution networks and street dealers. The second pillar deals with the dismantling of the international drug trafficking networks. The third pillar concentrates on investigations related to the financing of terrorism (particularly the PKK) through drug trafficking.

In recent years, the Turkish National Police (TNP) has made nearly 20 percent of the global heroin seizures. Over the past decade, Turkey's

consistent cooperation with European counterparts led to the dismantling of numerous heroin networks along the Balkan route. On the other hand, we have been observing that the Northern route is gaining gravity in terms of heroin trafficking, which led the Turkish law enforcement agencies to develop operational partnerships with our counterparts along this route. More recently, (2012-2013-2014) Anti-Smuggling & Organized Crime Department (KOM) under the TNP has conducted 11 heroin operations in collaboration with Sweden, USA, UK, Canada, Austria and Macedonia. These operations resulted in the seizure of over 20.400 kilograms of heroin and 56.738 kilograms of opium gum.

In addition to active participation in bilateral and multilateral operations, Turkey also provides distinguished training to the personnel of the national law enforcement agencies of many countries. There have been organized training programs through the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) for the benefit of the counter-narcotic units of many countries, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, as well as the countries of the Middle East, Central Asia and the Balkans. TADOC is also a significant contributor to the training projects organized within international organizations and institutions such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), and SELEC. Currently, TADOC, as a leading Academy in the region, is referred to by UNODC as a “Center of Excellence” while its work is presented as “best practices” to the rest of the world. Since its establishment in 2000, TADOC has organized a total of over 500 international training programs with the participation of nearly 9.000 law enforcement personnel from 88 countries [2].

Combating international organized crime is one of the major challenges for the international community. Within this framework, there is need for:

- creating coordinated comprehensive national strategies;
- quick exchange of information and experience among the law enforcement officers and other criminal justice officers;
- cooperating in the area of border security;
- and creating public awareness on transnational crime as a national security threat in order to enlist citizens participation in combating organized crime.

Cooperating to put an end to various forms of organized crimes by acceding to international instruments is also an important step. “The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime” and its three

Protocols are among such international instruments. Turkey is party to the said Convention and its Protocols.

Bilateral agreements for cooperation against drug trafficking, terrorism and organized crime do also have significant importance. Turkey has concluded such agreements with more than 70 countries. Turkey is also party to certain regional cooperation efforts in the fight against organized crime in the Balkans and Black Sea regions, such as the Stability Pact, the South East European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

Furthermore, as a country which has achieved great success in the fight against organized crime and illicit drug trafficking, Turkey has lead a national initiative aimed at setting up an infrastructure to carry out efforts at the international level. Within this framework, the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) was founded in Turkey with the cooperation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. TADOC, with the aim of sustaining and improving the conditions of the fight against organized criminal groups in the light of scientific data has set up an appropriate basis to establish and foster regional and international cooperation by building a network in the fight against crimes by integrating trainees from different agencies of various countries. Since its establishment in 2000, more than 1600 national and international law enforcement officers have participated in the training and seminar programs organized by TADOC [3].

**Turkey's Efforts In Combating Corruption** Corruption is a threat for good governance, erodes confidence in and respect for democratic institutions and emerges as an obstacle to the economic development. Aware of this fact, Turkey has always given priority to the fight against corruption. Turkey is strongly committed to the fight against corruption and has taken all legislative and operational measures in order to stamp out domestic corruption and to contribute to the international efforts to tackle the problem, as it has increasingly assumed a transnational character.

Turkey is active in various international organisations involved in the fight against corruption. The UN Convention against Corruption is considered as a landmark in this field. Turkey took part in the preparation works of the Ad Hoc Committee in Vienna and is among the first countries signed the Convention on 10 December 2003. Turkey became party to the Convention as of 9 December 2006. A delegation headed by Mr. Cemil Çiçek, Minister of Justice, participated in the First Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption held in Jordan, in December 2006. Turkey also ratified the Council of Europe Civil and Criminal Law Conventions on Corruption and became a member of the

Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), in 2004. Turkey also ratified the Council of Europe's Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime (1990) on 30 July 2004. Turkey is a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and a party to the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and of the OECD Working Group on Bribery. Turkey attended the "Global Forum V on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity" held in Johannesburg, from 2 to 5 April 2007, with a delegation headed by Mr. Cemil Çiçek, the Minister of Justice [4].

**Cybersecurity Issues** Internet crimes, mainly consisting of fraud and romance scams, have increased significantly in Turkey over the past several years. While the type of scam can vary from a romance to a visa lottery, they all have the same goal in common – to entice the victim to send money to an individual or company in Turkey. The most common scam involves a person in Turkey (often claiming to be a U.S. citizen living here) beginning a long-distance relationship with a someone living in the United States. After several months of online communication, the person in Turkey alleges medical or legal trouble that requires substantial monetary aid to address. For a full list of scams, visit the State Department's International Financial Scams webpage [1].

#### *Список використаних джерел*

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