

completely ban the Yakuza. It is a delicate situation for the Japanese authorities as criminalizing the gangs themselves would most probably drive crime underground and prompt even more aggressive activities. Looking at the positives, at least they are now regulated and subject to the law. The Japanese government should be very cautious in the polishing of the law.

The future of the Yakuza remains uncertain. After weighing the alternatives, despite all the crimes the Yakuza has committed, it may be within the National Police Agency's interest to keep them alive.

#### **Список використаних джерел:**

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### **FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING IN FRANCE**

Definitions of organized crime, as given by the European Union and the United Nations, agree on several points. It is the work of a “structured group existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing crimes in order to obtain a financial or other material benefit” [1]. **Organized crime is a transnational issue and covers all major areas of trafficking: drugs, human beings, arms, stolen vehicles, and wild animals and plants, etc. Combating organized crime is a major challenge for the international community.** Alongside terrorism, it now represents the largest non-military threat to internal security and international economic stability. **The overall proceeds of organized crime probably total around €1trillion per year [1].** The 2005 Prüm Convention (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Spain), which provides for the exchange of personal data including genetic profiles and fingerprints, and the organization of joint patrols and the European Arrest Warrant adopted in 2002, are major steps forward in combating organized crime.

Three strategic steps were selected for Internal Security Strategy:

- the disruption of international criminal networks;

- raising levels of security for citizens and businesses in cyberspace;
- strengthening security through border management;

As a major partner in the construction of a common space of security, freedom and justice, **France has also participated actively in the development of Europol**, which was created in 1999 and is based in The Hague. Europol's role is to facilitate information exchanges between Member States, as well as carrying out criminal analysis and assessing threats [1].

In France there is **The International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-Interpol)** was created in 1923 and is based in Lyon. It has a secure global police communications network and operational databases, and provides operational support and training for police forces. It also sets up working groups in order to intensify exchanges on investigations, enable criminal analysis and keep statistics [1]. Criminal networks traffic a range of drugs including cannabis, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine. As international borders become increasingly porous, global abuse and accessibility to drugs have become increasingly widespread.

Drug trafficking is a scourge with serious consequences in terms of security, health and social exclusion. It breeds all forms of crime and violence as well as arms trafficking. For example, 80% of score-settling is the result of drug trafficking [2].

In response to this scourge, the Government has decided to introduce tough measures. While 2019 showed some satisfactory results (with an 11.4% increase in the number of drug trafficking cases prosecuted compared with 2018 and a 10.4% increase in the number of people charged with drug trafficking), in September 2019, the Government decided to step up its action further by launching a plan to eliminate drug trafficking through additional resources, more effective organisation and the sharing of information between all services of the State [2].

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January this year, the new Anti-Drug Office (OFAST), became fully operational. **With 170 agents at the end of the year, OFAST is a service which is outstanding in its organisation**, bringing together police officers, gendarmes, judges and customs officers and being based both at its headquarters in Nanterre and in the territories through 11 regional branches and 5 local units. OFAST's territorial presence will be reinforced with the **upcoming creation of 6 additional units in the regions and two overseas offices**. OFAST is thus the nerve centre in the fight against drug trafficking, enabling **better coordination of investigations under the authority of the public prosecutors' offices and optimal intelligence sharing between all services**.

Hence, on 27 February 2020:

- 3.3 tonnes of cocaine originating from America and bound for Marseille were seized as part of an international police operation and three people suspected of being responsible for retrieving this cargo were arrested in Marseille by investigators from the Anti-Drug Office. This seizure was possible thanks to a tip-off made to the OFAST office in Marseille [2];

- 4.8 tonnes of cannabis resin were seized at Villepinte by OFAST investigators and several people suspected of involvement in international drug trafficking from Morocco via Spain were arrested [2].

In the first six months of the year, 57 tonnes of cannabis were seized, 37 percent more than in the same period in 2020. The increase in seizures also concerns cocaine (+91 percent) with almost nine tonnes intercepted, heroin (+60 percent) and ecstasy (+24 percent). In addition to these seizures of narcotics, the confiscation of criminal assets (houses, cars, bank accounts) amounted to 52 million euros in the first half of the year. "It is a very hard blow against drugs, which no doubt explains the settling of scores that we are experiencing", said French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin [4].

The lockdown imposed in France to combat the coronavirus led to a sharp drop in drug trafficking. The lockdown initially "stunned" drug traffickers who were stuck at home just like their customers. Criminals used home delivery and drive-in services while also increasing indoor cannabis culture. Illegal drug shortages led to territorial fights and increased violence. Cannabis use is outlawed in France but the country has one of Europe's highest consumption rates. Most cannabis resin that enters France comes from Morocco via Spain. Marijuana, or grass, is typically imported from the Netherlands. The Interpol police organisation said last month that criminals were using food delivery services as a cover to transport drugs and other illegal goods during the coronavirus crisis, which has seen countries around the world go into lockdown [3].

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## **PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION AS INTERNATIONAL ISSUE**

International child abductions are difficult and complex situations. **In the past few years, the number of cases involving international child abduction has risen significantly. International child abduction is, unfortunately, becoming a common trend.**

If we talk about the horrible statistics of child abductions, we must say that:

- around 8 million children are reported missing each year worldwide;
- as estimated, 2300 children are reported missing daily in the us;
- teenagers are the most common age group for abduction;
- less than 1% of missing children get taken by strangers;
- more than 90% of abductions are a deed of one of the parents;
- a child is reported missing every two minutes in Europe.

**Abductions can occur when a child is moved even a short distance, detained for even a modest amount of time, or taken or held by someone who has no legal right to custody. These types of child abductions often occur in the context of family disputes over child custody or during the commission of other crimes.**

**There are three types of child kidnapping:**

- **A stranger takes a child for criminal purposes (sexual assaults, ransom, etc.)**
- **A person abducts a child to raise it.**
- **Parental abduction – a non-custodial parent takes a child from the other parent.**