

Western Hemisphere Regional Transnational Crime Assessment and Analysis

Introduction:

John Jay College is working on the application of the Western Hemisphere Regional Transnational Crime Assessment and Analysis for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the U.S. Department of State. In 2020, Dr. Hung-En Sung and Dr. Yuliya Zabyelina successfully secured a research grant for the project which aims to assess corruption and the impact of corruption in the Western Hemisphere: Central America, South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. It will also support a pilot dashboard mapping of transnational organized crime networks and activities in some South American countries: Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia. These objectives are an effort to contribute to the generation of criminal intelligence compiled, analyzed, and disseminated to anticipate, prevent, or monitor transnational organized crime activities.

Background:

- According to the *Corruption Perceptions Index 2020*, the majority of South American and Caribbean countries received a lower corruption score, which indicates higher levels of corruption, than North America.
-Landmark cases on corruption in South America, for example, include Lava Jato, La linea, and Odebrecht.

Materials:

- Three conventions on anti-corruption
- United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)
 - Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC)
 - OECD Anti-Bribery Convention
 - Literature



Methods:

- Research and analysis of the different forms of corruption in the Western Hemisphere.
- Analysis of factors that contribute to corruption in the region.
- Analysis of the implementation of anti-corruption measures of State Parties to the conventions.

Results:

- Corruption is pervasive in the Western Hemisphere.
- The conventions are effective in tackling corruption.

Conclusion:

- Corruption has emerged under various circumstances and for various reasons.
- Review mechanisms ensure State Parties comply with their obligations under the convention.
- The conventions provide measures that prevent and address corruption.

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