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## NEWS RELEASE

### ***Unintended Impact of Peacekeeping Missions on Organized Crime Requires Vigilance***

***Institute for  
Research on  
Public Policy***

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**Montreal** – In a Working Paper released today by the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP.org), Major Irv Marucelj (Canadian Military Engineers) says Mature Peacekeeping Operations unintentionally support the growth of transnational and organized crime.

The main reason for this tendency is the societal conditions in the areas to which peacekeeping operations are deployed. But the way in which these operations are conducted also facilitates organized crime.

“The social and class strain, the political instability, and the sudden availability of wealth that characterizes the incorporation of an international intervention all tend to promote organized criminal activity,” concludes Marucelj. The author examines the Bosnian case to illustrate his argument.

Marucelj reviews several facilitators of organized crime:

- ◆ Under conditions of social disarray, some culturally permissive societies are more accepting of delinquency and criminal activity. Mature Peacekeeping Operations may heighten this disarray by bringing in a new culture and value system.
- ◆ Since robust transportation systems help organized crime develop in cities tied into regional transportation routes, a peacekeeping operation will almost certainly enable the growth of such activity by extending and modernizing transportation systems for its own mission’s purposes.
- ◆ Lax or incompetent police and justice systems make criminal activity easier to carry out. Although peacekeeping operations seek to reinstate the state’s monopoly on the use of force, they may prove inexperienced or have insufficient means to deal with local issues, thereby creating a nest for organized crime.
- ◆ Governments in a peacekeeping deployment area are often unstable and open to corruption which invites unlawful partnerships with criminal groups.
- ◆ Organized crime is drawn to wealthy markets, and peacekeeping operations, which seek to promote economic recovery through both cash aid and salaries, represent a

new source of income in the local economy. By creating a large amount of disposable income, this aspect creates yet another opportunity for organized crime to thrive.

- ◆ Since criminal activity prevails in societies that place a great importance on material wealth and then deny its attainment to a given class, Western peacekeeping missions, which introduce Western materialism, tend to destabilize the societies in which they are deployed.

“Mature Peacekeeping Operations as Facilitators of Organized Crime” is the latest Working Paper to be released as part of IRPP’s National Security and Military Interoperability research program. It is now available free of charge, in Adobe (.pdf) format, on the Institute’s Web site, at [www.irpp.org](http://www.irpp.org).

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Disclaimer: This paper represents the personal research of the author and does not reflect official policy of the Department of National Defence.

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