



Threat Finance: Disconnecting the Lifeline of Organised Crime and Terrorism

By Shima D. Keene

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Criminal and terrorist organisations are increasingly turning to white collar crime such as fraud, e-crime, bribery, data and identity theft, in addition to more violent activities involving kidnap and ransom, narcotics and arms trafficking, to fund their activities and, in some cases pursue their cause. The choice of victims is global and indiscriminate. The modus operandi is continually mutating and increasing in sophistication; taking advantage of weaknesses in the system whether they be technological, legal or political. Countering these sources of threat finance is a shared challenge for governments, the military, NGOs, financial institutions and other businesses that may be targeted. Shima Keene's Threat Finance offers new thinking to equip any organisation regardless of sector and geographical location, with the knowledge and tools to deploy effective counter measures to tackle the threat. To that end, she brings together a wide variety of perspectives - cultural, legal, economic and technological - to explain the sources, mechanisms and key intervention methodologies. The current environment continues to favour the criminal and the terrorist. Threat Finance is an essential read for fraud and security practitioners, financial regulators, policy-makers, intelligence officials, judges and barristers, law enforcement officers, and researchers in this field. Dr Keene offers an antidote to the lack of good, applied, research; shortcomings in in-house financial and forensic expertise; misdirected financial compliance schemes; legal and judicial idiosyncrasies; unhelpful organisation structures and poor communication. She argues convincingly for a coherent, aggressive, informed and cross-disciplinary approach to an ever changing and rapidly growing threat.

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Editorial Review

Review

'Dr Shima Keene has shed fresh light on and deepened our understanding of a subject critical to international security. Despite broad consensus that countering the finance of organized crime and terrorism represents both a vital requirement and a tremendous opportunity, few understand the nature of the problem or how to act against it. Keene's comprehensive, accessible, and compelling book should be the new standard text on the subject for policymakers, intelligence officials, law enforcement officers, and anyone responsible for combating terrorist organizations and transnational organized crime networks. Dr Keene's recommendations for improving financial intelligence, developing comprehensive counter-finance methods, adapting law enforcement organizations, and crafting options to target criminal and terrorist financial streams should be adopted with urgency. Dr. Keene argues that improving understanding of the basic concepts of terrorist and criminal finance is essential; reading her book is an excellent starting point in that connection. Brigadier General H.R. McMaster, U.S. Army, former commander of Task Force Shafafiyat (Transparency) in Afghanistan 'This book provides a lucid education on the often inconvenient realities of serious economic crime and identifies with clinical precision the reasons why it sometimes seems beyond the practical capabilities of the law to deal with it. What makes it so important, however, is Dr Keene's ability to mobilise the difficult thoughts that need to be thought if modern democracy is to survive the corruptive threats of crime and terror and their ability at the more sophisticated levels to exploit the modern accommodations of international finance and cyberspace with apparent impunity. The challenge, so vividly described here, can appear overwhelming; but the lasting influence left by this seminal work is the conviction that it will be more adequately met if some of the current cosy thinking on this subject in relevant fields of influence can be turned on its head.' Kenneth Murray MA CA, Head of Forensic Accountancy, Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency 'Interdicting tainted wealth is perceived by many as if not a cure for the ills of our time as at least a logical and meaningful strategy against enterprise criminals. Indeed, so persuasive is the logic, that similar laws and techniques have been adopted against terrorists. Dr Shima Keene, who comes at all this, from the refreshing perspective of someone who has worked in the defence establishment and has real knowledge of the way such criminal and terrorists operate, subjects the application and operation of the legal, regulatory and intelligence regimes to searching and critical analysis. She pulls no punches and identifies where a lot more thought and effort is needed to achieve anything like what was hoped for. This is a unique and challenging analysis that no one who looks after other people's wealth can afford not to consider - very carefully!' Barry Rider, Professorial Fellow, Centre for Development Studies, University of Cambridge UK 'The economic aspects of threats to our national security posed by terrorism and organised crime have received relatively little attention from those charged with ensuring our security and countering those threats. This thorough, penetrating and highly original study discusses why this has been the case, and explains the nature of the problem with admirable clarity. Dr Keene's eminently sensible, realistic recommendations should be required reading for everyone interested in national and international security.' Chris Donnelly, Director, The Institute for Statecraft, former Senior Fellow of the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom and former Special Adviser to the Secretary General of NATO 'This is a remarkable work on a complex and little understood subject which has long deserved the level of forensic examination Shima provides. It acts as an exceptionally useful reference for those engaged in the fight against organized crime and terrorism in both the public and private sectors, and especially in the security and compliance departments of international banks.' Karl Barclay, Chairman Stirling Assynt International Group Limited and former Head of Global Security and Fraud Risk for the HSBC Group

About the Author

Shima Keene is a security advisor and scholar practitioner specialising in Threat Finance, advising and working closely with numerous government and law enforcement agencies around the globe. She is a former investment banker, corporate strategist and soldier. Between 2004 and 2008, Shima Keene was based at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom where she developed the concept of asymmetric financial warfare. More recently she was Special Advisor to the MoD responsible for the development of Fin COIN strategies in Afghanistan. Dr Keene is currently the Director of the Threat Finance Programme at the Institute for Statecraft, London and is a visiting lecturer at several academic institutions where she lectures in Terrorism, Financial Crime, International Criminal Law, Security Risk Management and Maritime Piracy. She also serves as an Expert Witness to the Crown Prosecution Service on matters relating to the financial aspects of organised crime and terrorism.

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Trevor Wright:

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