



# FORCED CRIMINALITY AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

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# Indicators of exploitation and child trafficking

- Juvenile delinquents are not aware of being used or exploited, most of the time they believe to be part of a family or peer business.
- They trust their exploiters.
- Speeches are stereotyped.
- The amount of money stolen doesn't fit the life and appearance of the minor (about 12000 euros/month).
- Family doesn't show even when the minor is jailed.
- The offences all have very similar process as if they were rehearsed.

## Unaccompanied minors involved in delinquency in 2015 (details)

- 1225 indictments related to unaccompanied minors on a total of 2335 indictments (more than half of juvenile delinquency in Paris)
- 582 indictments regarding minors from the Maghreb for approximately 250 minors (mostly Algerians)
- 505 indictments regarding Romanians for approximately 200 minors
- 68 indictments regarding Serbians for approximately 20 minors

Note that due to those figures, the phenomenon has become not only a judicial issue but also a social and political issue

# General overview on the criminal groups using minors

- A precise geographical origin limited to a few neighbourhoods or to a narrow number of towns
- A family and community basis used for the psychological hold/influence of the victims,
- A *modus operandi* specific to each group (theft by the Automated Teller Machines or ATMs, theft of mobile phones, pick pocketing using fake petitions etc.),
- Ramifications in different Western European countries fostering children movements or transfers.

# ROUMANIE



Division Géographique de la Direction des Archives  
du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères © 2004

0 100 km

# Using the system's failures

- Failing to register the births
- Aliases
- Fake filiations and cloning identity
- Regular children movement in other Western European countries

## Focus on 2 children groups who are forced to commit crimes in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Norway

- Exploited in Paris from 2009 and in Spain and Italy from 2005
- From Constanta and Tandarei (Romania)
- Around 70 children boys and girls, 10 to 16 years old
- Pick-pocketing, mobile phones theft, ATM theft

# Structuring & Recruitment

- Family base 15 (Constanta) to 50 families (Tandarei)
- No hierarchy structure, oportunistic alliances (Constanta)
- Families including in the network by a *camata* system or “taxes” (Tandarei)
- Girls are more vulnerable (no school, early marriage)
- Daughters in law are the most exploited



## Twisted codes around marriage customary

- The profitability of the young girl is a preponderant criterion in the choice of the bride
- The dowry loses its symbolical value and becomes a “price of the bride”, sometimes as high as 10,000 euro
- The family in law converts symbolically the money paid at the marriage ceremony into a debt that must pay back through stealing activities.
- If a girl is promised to an in-law family, and the word of her father is not kept, the *Stabor* (traditional court) meets and important sums of money must be paid as compensation by the family of the young girl.

## Boys position

- The pressures imposed on them are not as high as those imposed on the girls
- They help or survey their wives with phone stealing or ATMs theft
- Presence of enslavement situation for boys coming from violent families

## Factors determining minors to ask for protection

- Mistreatment,
- Low level of personal benefits,
- The daughters in-law have no possibility to grow-up their children; most of the time, the child is entrusted to relatives in Romania;
- Several young girls who married very early fell in love with other boys who pushes them to break up with their husbands and so with their in-law families in order to live a teenager's life.
- A high quantity of stolen mobile phones demanded from them or high quantity of money
- The absence of perspective within the organisation.

# INITIATIVES TO PROTECT CHILD VICTIMS IN EUROPE

- **Victim identification system in the UK is disconnected from the opening of a police investigation**
  - - improving process of identification (602 minors 2013)
  - - forms of child exploitation covered are not limited to sexual exploitation
  - - Changing our view on THB (1st nationality are Britain)
- **UE database for victims of THB**
- **Facilitating access to the status of victim (Italy art.13 and art.18)**
- **Simplifying the referrals procedure, innovative responses and specialised centres, (NL)**
- **Guardianship (BI)**
- **Educational approach and multidisciplinary work**

Fantasies and Realities  
Fueling Child trafficking  
in Europe

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Foreword  
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Post-script  
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