

## **CLEIMUN19**

“Collaboration in a Polarized World”

A Research Report

COMMITTEE: Security Council

QUESTION: The Question of Rising Crime Rates Across International Borders in Latin America

AUTHOR: Rawad Almhana

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### **Introduction and Background**

Latin America is the world's most dangerous region. Violence is more commonplace in the area than anywhere else in the world. The violence was a direct result of rapid urbanization. Cities in Latin America grew faster over the past 50 years than any other place in the world. The vast majority of people live in cities and large towns. This rapid urbanization combined with a lack of jobs and failed international interventions lead to a large poor population. Throughout the Cold War Latin America was split between anti-communist and pro-communist parties leading to instability. This has lead to lack of trust in the government. Large scale corruption only furthers the problem. Firearms are very accessible which combined with a lot of unemployed people has lead to a large gang presence. Violence between gangs, making money through drugs, and a lack of a strong police force has thrown the region into constant violence. These issues have caused problems across North and South America.

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### **Will treating symptoms solve the issues caused by crime as generations pass?**

The high crime rates in Latin America are already causing political and humanitarian problems. Some attempt to flee the violence resulting in immigration issues. Most notably along the United States-Mexican border. This part of the crisis has provided further complications: smugglers kidnap refugees, families have complications crossing the border, and refugees get mixed in with gang members and the drug trade. Solving the issue by dealing with the symptoms and hoping the best or directly addressing the root of the problem is an important decision. How can the UN save those suffering the results of high crime rates while also fixing the core of the issue?

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### **How can intervention be effective in a region so distrustful of authority?**

Corruption is widespread in Latin America. From heads of government to local authority, it is hard to find trustworthy leaders. Local officials often work with gangs. This has caused a lack of trust in the government and police. Before any action takes place the UN needs to convince the people that any actions it takes are for the benefit of the people. Large scale change will not occur without changing the minds of the people.

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### **How can the crime rate be lowered sustainably?**

Any potential solutions to the issue must be sustainable. People must be able to change their lives without being dragged back to crime. For that to occur working conditions and pay

will have to be proper. People who turn from crime must be slowly reintroduced to society. They may at first find a regular job boring or feel that they do not fit in and thus return to crime.

People who have left gangs may be a target of violence. Extra caution must be taken to reduce these incidents and show others that leaving a gang is safe. Without taking precautions to ensure progress is retained, efforts in to lower crime rates in Latin America may be wasteful.

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### **Previous Attempts at Resolution**

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### **Possible Solutions**

Giving people an opportunity other than crime may be one of the best methods of reducing crime rates. However, ordinary jobs and opportunities will not be a safe option if gangs are able to keep their essentially free roam in some nations. Dissolving gangs using force may be one of the quickest options. Force may result in larger gang backlash however proving potential catastrophic. A proper solution includes political reform, the usage of force to maintain peace, opportunities for those who would turn to crime, and physical barriers that make it harder for large organized crime to take place. This would include revealing and replacing corrupt leaders, creating a proper police force specially trained to combat organized crime, and de-urbanization to spread people in poverty making it harder to form gangs and easier to find jobs.