

THE ROLE OF OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE CLUBS IN ORGANIZED CRIME WITH AN EMPHASIS ON MOTORCYCLE CLUBS IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

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INTRODUCTION

Outlaw motorcycle clubs have recently become the target of positive legislation, police forces and secret services of many countries, and for this reason they have become a threat to the safety of the social community.

This activity is rhetorically based on organized outlaw motorcycle clubs (hereinafter referred to as OMCG) as participants in organized crime, although most of the media coverage of the public refers to public violence to which the same gangs are prone. In connection with the above, regardless of what their focus really is, members of these groups have a lifestyle that intimidates the public (Lauchs & Jarrod, 1: 2017).

THE HISTORY OF OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS, THEIR ORIGINS AND CULTURE

Motorcycle gangs have a rich and controversial history, dating back to the middle of the 20th century. Their formation is often linked to social changes, wars and subcultures that developed after the World War II. Many veterans, returning from war, were looking for a way to adjust to civilian life. Motorcycles became a symbol of freedom and rebellion, and veterans formed groups that shared a common love of riding motorcycles. The first organized outlaw motorcycle clubs (motorcycle gangs) appeared during the 1940s and 1950s.

Outlaw motorcycle clubs are a cultural phenomenon that originated in the United States of America and spread throughout the world, first in Western countries, and gradually in all other developed regions. Their male members were increasingly enamoured with powerful American motorcycles, especially those produced by *Harley Davidson*. A chain of historical events created a model of organizational type that provided an outlet for their preferred lifestyle and specific organizational structure. One of the most famous outlaw motorcycle clubs, *the Hells Angels*, was founded in 1948 in California. This outlaw motorcycle club soon became synonymous with violence and clashes with the authorities, which attracted media attention and contributed to the creation of the myth of “outlaw” motorcycle clubs. *The Hells Angels* became the model for many other groups that emerged throughout the United States and the world.

The genesis of OMCG is generally said to have taken place in the small Californian town of Hollister during the July 4th holiday weekend of 1947 (Reynolds, 1967:43). *The San Francisco Chronicle* reported that motorcyclists “began to ‘take over the city’ on the evening of July 3rd... and were practically out of

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control”; that they “defied all traffic regulations by rushing at full speed through the streets and intersections”; and that they directed “their machines into bars, smashing appliances, bottles, glasses, tables and mirrors”. While most of the bikers were in Hollister that weekend attending an unsanctioned American Motorcycle Association (AMA) event, a section of them broke away and split up. OMCGs like *the Booze Fighters* and *Pissed Off Bastards of Bloomington* stood out from the mainstream motorcycle enthusiasts and created an authentic rebellious subculture. Such groups began to enjoy their minority status and would soon identify themselves as outlaws or “1% people”; the few who are not concerned about the rules of society (Lauchs & Jarrod, 2017:1).

THE SPREAD AND EVOLUTION OF OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE CLUBS

The outlaw motorcycle club was made up of ex-soldiers, where the original outlaw clubs practiced a military lifestyle (Reilli, 2009:11), and where their members felt alienated from a safe and secure lifestyle. During the 1960s and 1970s, motorcycle gangs expanded internationally. Groups such as *Mongols MC*, *Outlaws MC*, *Bandidos MC* and *Pagans MC* became known for their organization and violent clashes with rival gangs. In many cases, these gangs engaged in criminal activities, including drug trafficking, extortion, violent crime and arms trafficking.

While OMCGs were formed in the conservative post-war period, the countercultural environment of the 1960s proved to be the incubator in which OMCG grew and began to spread throughout the world. At the forefront were *the Hells Angels* in California. Under the leadership of Ralph ‘Sonni’ Barger, *the Hells Angels* incorporated the military structure of the OMCG and became highly organized (Lauchs & Jarrod, 3:2017). Motorcycle gangs were not only criminal organizations, they were also a subculture with specific rules, symbols, customs and rituals. Members of these groups often wore specific vests with emblems (known as *colours*), which indicated their affiliation with a particular motorcycle gang.

CONFLICTS WITH THE AUTHORITIES, MUTUAL CONFLICTS AND MEDIA ATTENTION

The book *Hell's Angels: The Weird and Horrible Saga of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs* (Thompsons, 1966) became a current classic that inspired rebellious youths to join outlaw clubs. *The Hells Angels* then collaborated with film companies to shape and present the image of bikers and set themselves as his example. Virtually all OMCGs around the world use the structure and rules of the *Hells Angels club* as their model. Despite the great distances in their locations, these groups maintain a considerable degree of uniformity in their outward appearance and their activities. All outlaw clubs support a hierarchical structure that is most often represented by a president, vice president, sergeant major and secretary and/or treasurer. They forbid riding Japanese motorcycles and most often prefer *Harley Davidson* motorcycles. They (almost universally) wear three-part patches on their backs (Lauchs & Jarrod, 2017: 3). Their notoriety was the focus of society, media, books, and movies.

Motorcycle gangs were often in conflict with the authorities but also with each other. Violent confrontations between rival groups, known as “*biker wars*”, often ended in death. These conflicts attracted a lot of media attention and led to motorcycle gangs being perceived as a serious threat to public safety. One of the most famous incidents happened in 1969 at the *Rolling Stones concert* in Altamont, where *the Hells Angels*, hired as security, killed a concertgoer. This event marked the end of the “peaceful” era of the counterculture of the 1960s and further degraded the image of motorcycle gangs in the public eye.



Since the mid-1990s, the Hells Angels have become openly antagonistic towards all clubs over which they have no indirect influence. This led to a subculture war that pitted the *Angels* against other major clubs across North America, Australia and Europe. They had structural sophistication and a great desire to achieve that goal even though *the Mongols* were on the rise. Conservative bikers wanted to preserve conservative values (Quinn & Forsyth, 2011: 217).

CHARACTERISTICS OF OUTLAW MOTO GANGS

OMCG members have historically shown a contradictory notion of freedom. While they enjoy their freedom from mainstream society, including obligations such as marriage (Wolf, 1991:18), they have a military system of obedience and commitment to the club, including strict observance of participation in club events and adherence to dress codes. Club members, therefore, struggle to find work and turn to petty crime for income, but many manage the conflicting obligations of the club, main job and family (Veno, 2012:7). Despite these members playing conforming and deviant roles, Barker (2007, 2011:15) notes that the behaviour patterns of OMCG members are designed to conflict with mainstream society and therefore attract the attention of state authorities.

Motorcycle gangs, especially those labelled as “outlaw” or “one percent” groups, have several distinctive features that distinguish them from other subcultures and criminal organizations. These features are key to understanding their structure, behaviour and how they function.

OMCGs are honour-based societies that reflect the principles of the criminal subculture, which include notions often supported by mainstream society, such as honesty and trustworthiness (Newbold, 1989:11). The two primary forms of foul play—committed by other clubs—are fouls against club colours and trespassing on club grounds. Conversely, honour can be gained within one’s own club by committing these same acts against opposition clubs (Lauchs & Jarrod, 2017: 4-5).

During the 1980s, the expansion of the clubs led various US government agencies to focus on their illegal activities (Hopper & Moore 1983; Montgomery, 1976: 338). OMCG has become recognized by US law enforcement as “the new face of organized crime” (Barker & Human 2009:175). Barker points out that the American OMCG is connected with large organized criminal groups, such as the Russian, Colombian, Asian and Italian mafias (Barker, 2007:44). Stolz states that the police often claim that OMCG behave like organized criminal groups fighting over the territory where they will carry out their racketeering (Stolz, 2015:18).

Brand and image are marketable goods that increase their power (Quinn & Koch Shane, 2003:299). In other words, the fear generated by traditional activities is a tool that supports radical organized criminal activity. Therefore, the clubs may not have been founded as organized crime groups, but they have adapted by building on their inherent strengths.

OMCG has a history of inter-club violence or war mentality. They compete for territory out of the need for prestige and in order to protect the same territory, also to receive new members (Quinn & Forsyth, 2011:220). This competition led to feuds such as the four-decade-long rivalry between *the Hells Angels* and *the Outlaws* in the US (Quinn & Forsyth, 2009:260) and the blood feud between *the Hells Angels* and *the Mongols* (Barker, 2011:201). However, these disputes have existed for decades and do not require any involvement in organized crime to fuel them. Since territorial disputes are part of the original psyche, they are not proof that OMCG is a criminal enterprise.



Most motorcycle clubs in New Zealand today do not function as organized crime groups, but have elements of organized crime within them and often include members who work with outsiders (Gilbert, 34: 2013). That the clubs are not criminal organizations, but that the members of the groups engage in such crime is also true for Australia (Veno, 2012:56).

Some of the characteristics of outlaw motorcycle clubs are:

Hierarchical structure (OMCG members usually have a strict hierarchical structure that defines the roles and responsibilities of the members). At the head of the moto gang is the president, who makes key decisions, and below him are the vice president, the treasurer (in charge of finances), the secretary (who keeps records), and sergeant-at-arms (who maintains discipline). Members are often divided into groups or branches (local sections), which have a degree of autonomy but still answer to central leadership). Group identity and symbols are the most recognizable aspects of bikers' symbolism. They usually wear vests with emblems (known as *colours*) that indicate gang membership. These emblems include the gang's name, logo, and often the location of the branch. Symbolism also has great importance within a subculture and represents identity, loyalty, and belonging to a group.

Outlaw culture (many motorcycle gangs identify as "outlaw" groups, meaning they pride themselves on breaking the law and operating outside the boundaries of legal and socially accepted norms. These gangs are often referred to as "one percent" groups, which refers to the idea that 99% of bikers are law-abiding, while 1% of them are outlaws. This "outlaw" culture involves rejecting social norms, respecting one's own rules, and often being antagonistic towards the authorities. Other characteristics are loyalty and brotherhood, violence, a rigid code of conduct, rituals and ceremonies, territoriality and connection to a subculture.

OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE CLUBS AND SERIOUS CRIMINALS

OMCG are often associated with serious crimes, which has contributed to their reputation as a dangerous and violent group. Although not every motorcycle club is criminal, many so-called "outlaw" or "one percent" gangs have a long history of involvement in serious illegal activities.

Drug trafficking is one of the most common activities associated with motorcycle gangs. Many of these groups are involved in the production, distribution and sale of narcotics, including methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana. These activities often bring significant profits to the gangs, but also lead to violent conflicts with rival groups and authorities.

According to Barker, the violent reputation of OMCG members—as a tool of intimidation—is very pronounced (Barker, 2011:212). Motorcycle gangs are also associated with extortion and racketeering. In many cases, gang members use threats of violence or actual violence to coerce individuals or businesses into paying "protection" or giving money to the gang. This type of crime often targets local entrepreneurs, but can also involve wider racketeering operations at a regional or national level. Furthermore, violence is another significant characteristic of motorcycle gangs, especially when it comes to conflicts with rival gangs. These conflicts, known as "biker wars", often result in physical attacks, shootings and even murders. Violence between gangs often escalates over territorial disputes or control over lucrative criminal activities such as drug trafficking or racketeering.

Contributing to more serious forms of crime raises the bar from street crime to more sophisticated activity such as high-level illegal drug sales, racketeering and extortion (Lauchs & Jarrod, 2017:7). Motorcycle gangs are also known for their involvement in the illegal arms trade. These groups often



smuggle weapons, sell them to other criminal organizations, or use them in their own operations. Arms trafficking not only increases the power and influence of a motorcycle gang, but also contributes to their ability to engage in violent conflict with rival groups or oppose public authorities. Like many other organized crime groups, motorcycle gangs use money laundering to legalize their illegal income. This includes investing in legitimate businesses, such as bars, motorcycle shops and other businesses, to disguise the origin of money earned from criminal activities. Money laundering allows outlaw motorcycle clubs to expand their operations and maintain financial stability and compactness.

The presence of motorcycle gangs can have a serious impact on local communities. Fear of violence, extortion and other criminal activities often leads to destabilization of the social community. In some cases, motorcycle gangs establish “parallel authorities” where they impose their own rules and laws instead of official institutions.

OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE CLUBS AND ORGANIZED CRIME

Criminal groups and organizations are taking increasingly sophisticated and organized approaches to committing crimes, prosecution authorities have increasing difficulties in discovering, elucidating and proving crimes (Vulević, 2024:7). A more successful attempt at definition appears in Article 2 of the *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*,² which defines an organized criminal group as: “a structured group of three or more persons who exist in a certain period of time and act in concert with the aim of committing one or more *serious crimes or offenses* established in accordance with this convention with the aim of obtaining, directly or indirectly, financial or other material benefits” (UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000). Motorcycle gangs, especially those called “outlaw” or “one percent” groups, are often associated with organized crime.

Organized crime is a growing societal problem that causes serious damage to society, ranging from economic costs, health problems, and a negative impact on victims (Levi et al., 2013: 22). Organized crime, especially in connection with the criminal offenses of drug abuse, illegal trade in arms and people, is on the rise. The number of the most serious crimes committed is growing, and the difficulties in discovering and proving the execution of those crimes and the perpetrators are very great due to the increasingly perfect organization of criminal associations (Vulević, 2023: 3). These gangs are not just social groups that share a love of motorcycles; many of them function as complex, hierarchically organized criminal organizations that engage in a variety of illegal activities. Their structure, organization and mode of operation often make them important players in the world of organized crime.

The nature of organized crimes is different. They include serious criminal acts in correlation with psychoactive substances such as production, supply or trade drugs, extortion, laundering money, prostitution.

Quinn and Koch Shane developed a typology of biker crime. This includes spontaneous expressive acts, that is, one or more members engaging in violent crime within the club, not as part of organized crime activity; *planned aggressive actions*, i.e. anti-rival activity planned by groups within a branch or senior management of a branch or club to advance the club’s priorities and current affairs, then *short-term instrumental actions*, i.e. planned or spontaneous activities of members to take advantage of an opportunity (such as theft) and *ongoing instrumental enterprises*, i.e. planned, a long-term activity designed to bring profit to the club. Organized crime falls into the last of these categories (Quinn & Koch Shane, 2003).

² <https://www.unodc.org/>



Wolf (1991) addressed this issue and distinguished between *conservative* 'bikers', who preserve the original culture of the club or what we call barbaric behaviour - uncivilized violent hyper-masculinity - and radical 'bikers', who are interested in profit through criminal activities.

During the 1980s, the expansion of the clubs led various government agencies to focus on their illegal activities (Montgomery, 1976: 333, Hopeer & Moore, 1983: 60). OMCG has become recognized by US law enforcement and positive legal regulations as "the new face of organized crime" (Barker & Human, 2009: 175). Wolf defined the OMCG as a "pre-adapted tool of organized crime" because they had a military-style organization supported by strict discipline and an exclusive culture that put the interests of the club above the interests of the community. The outcome of this culture is a demand for absolute secrecy about club events and contempt for the needs of mainstream society, especially respect for the law. It could be added that the fact that these are clubs of violent young men, intimidation in organized criminal markets contributed to these characteristics (Wolf, 1991: 266).

Brand and image are symbols that increase their power (Kuinn et al., 2003). In other words, the fear generated by traditional activities is a tool that supports radical organized criminal activity. Therefore, the clubs may not have been founded as organized crime groups, but they have adapted by building on their inherent strengths.

HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

Motorcycle gangs often have a strict hierarchical structure reminiscent of a military or paramilitary system. At the head of the motorcycle gang there is usually the president, below whom there are the vice president, treasurers (persons in charge of finances), secretaries, and captains or sergeants in charge of maintaining discipline. Members are often divided into groups, with each group having its own specific tasks. This organizational structure allows the gangs to effectively plan and carry out their criminal activities, including drug trafficking, racketeering, money laundering and other illegal operations. In large gangs, such as *the Hells Angels*, *Bandidos* or *Outlaws*, there is a global network that connects local groups with a central leadership, thus enabling the coordination of activities on an international level.

ECONOMIC POWER THROUGH CRIME

Motorcycle gangs often gain enormous economic power through their involvement in organized crime. The illegal drug trade is one of the most important sources of income for many motorcycle gangs. The production and distribution of methamphetamine, cocaine and other narcotics brings enormous profits, which are further used to finance other criminal activities or for legalization through money laundering. In addition to drug trafficking, many gangs are also involved in other types of crime, such as arms trafficking, vehicle theft, extortion, racketeering and human trafficking. These activities often involve complex operations that require high coordination and cooperation between different groups within the motorcycle gang as well as with other criminal organizations.

ALLIANCES AND CONFLICTS WITH OTHER CRIMINAL GROUPS

Motorcycle gangs often form alliances with other criminal organizations, such as mafia families, Latin American cartels or street gangs. These alliances allow motorcycle gangs to expand their operations, gain



access to new markets or resources, and protect themselves from rival groups. However, alliances are not always stable, and conflicts between gangs or between gangs and other criminal groups can be very dangerous and violent. These conflicts often involve armed confrontations, murders, and other forms of violence, which further complicates the security situation in the regions where these gangs are active.

MONEY LAUNDERING AND LEGAL INVESTMENTS

Money laundering is a key component of organized crime, and motorcycle gangs are very adept at this activity. Money earned from criminal activities is often invested in legitimate businesses, such as bars, clubs, motorcycle shops or real estate. In this way, the gangs manage to hide the origin of the money and legalize it. This practice not only allows gangs to maintain financial stability, but also allows them to expand their influence in the community. Legal investments allow gangs to legitimize themselves in the eyes of the public and authorities, which can provide them with additional protection from the law.

RELATIONS WITH THE AUTHORITIES AND CORRUPTION

Motorcycle gangs often try to influence local authorities and officials through corruption, threats or infiltration. Through bribery or other forms of corruption, gangs can secure information about police investigations, get more favorable treatment in the courts, or even direct government action against their rivals. In some cases, gangs establish close ties with local politicians or businessmen, thereby further strengthening their influence and ability to avoid legal consequences for their activities. These relationships between organized crime and the authorities further complicate the fight against motorcycle gangs and their criminal influence.

Findings about the disproportionate involvement of OMCG members in crime, and even the criminogenic effect of OMCG members, still do not justify the conclusion that the criminal behavior of individual OMCG members is orchestrated by a criminal organization. It is very possible that members of the OMCG commit a crime in their own name, without the organizational role of the OMCG (Sjouke van Deuren, 140: 2023).

MOTORCYCLE GANGS IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

Motorcycle gangs in the Nordic countries, such as Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland, represent a significant security challenge, especially due to their involvement in organized crime and their connections to international criminal networks. Although the Nordic countries have relatively low crime rates compared to some other parts of the world, the presence of motorcycle gangs and their association with serious crimes are becoming increasingly prominent problems.

The Nordic countries have witnessed the proliferation of international motorcycle gangs, such as *Hells Angels*, *Bandidos* and *Outlaws*. These gangs, which developed their roots in the USA and Western Europe, have established branches in all the Nordic countries. The expansion of these groups is usually accompanied by violence, conflicts with rival gangs and an increase in criminal activities, including drug trafficking, extortion and money laundering.



One of the biggest challenges accompanying the presence of motorcycle gangs in the countries is the conflicts between rival groups. These conflicts often involve armed attacks, arson, and other forms of violence, which pose a serious threat to public safety. For example, in Denmark during the 1990s, the so-called “*Nordic gang wars*” between *Hells Angels* and *Bandidos*, which resulted in numerous deaths and great material damage.

ORGANIZED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF OMCG IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

Motorcycle gangs in the Nordic countries are linked to a variety of criminal activities, including illegal drug trafficking, extortion and racketeering, arms trafficking and money laundering.

- *Drug trafficking*: Motorcycle gangs control the distribution of narcotics, especially amphetamines, cocaine, and marijuana. Their operations often involve complex international networks that use the Nordic countries as transit points or as end markets.
- *Extortion and racketeering*: Motorcycle gangs often use violence or threats of violence to extort money from local businessmen or other criminal groups. Racketeering is common in nightclubs, bars and the construction sector.
- *Arms trafficking*: Nordic gangs are involved in arms trafficking, often using networks that stretch across borders to illegally import or export weapons.
- *Money Laundering*: Moto gangs use a variety of mechanisms to launder money, including investing in legitimate businesses, false invoicing and using complex financial operations.

LEGAL AND POLICE STRATEGIES IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

The Dutch Nordic countries have developed various legal and police strategies to counter the threat posed by motorcycle gangs. These strategies include Specialized Police Units, as well as legal measures. Denmark, for example, has laws that allow the banning of gang members from gathering in certain places, the closure of their clubs and the confiscation of assets associated with criminal activities and international cooperation (Cubitt et al., 2023: 3).

Faced with the growing concern of the authorities with the criminal activities of the OMCG, primarily violence, the Dutch Minister of Justice and Security announced a multi-directional approach, in such a way as to hinder the criminal behaviour of the members, with the primary goal of focusing on the prosecution of individual members and the closure of the moto clubs (Recommending, House of Representatives, 711-112th US Congress, 2011–2012).

In the 1990s, the Dutch government, inspired by the administrative approach of *Cosa Nostra* in New York, realized that a repressive, criminal law approach to organized crime was insufficient to hinder opportunities for criminal organizations. As a result, it has been emphasized that the responsibility for fighting organized crime and other serious crimes lies not only with the police and the public prosecution, but also with other institutions, such as local governments and the private sector (Fijnaut, 2002: 17). For example, to prevent the importation of drugs through the port of Rotterdam, the Dutch government is currently focusing, in cooperation with private organizations, not only on detecting and prosecuting drug criminals, but also on increasing the number of container checks, improving



the port, security and conducting campaigns for raising the readiness of port employees to report a criminal offense (Staring, Bisschop & Rocks, 2021:177).

OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE CLUBS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

In 1960, a young American who had contacts with *the Hells Angels* formed a branch of the group in Auckland, New Zealand (Gilbert, 2013: 5). It was the fourth group and the first outside of California. In 1966, three members of *the Auckland Angels* arrived in Australia, where in 1968 they helped establish a branch in Sydney. The branch, however, was not officially recognized until 1975. At that time, New Zealand and Australia were home to numerous OMCGs formed by rebellious youths (Veno, 2012: 28). It is not specified how many clubs were formed, as only a small part survived either due to lack of support or voluntary or forced closure or transfer to more powerful clubs. However, the clubs were formed in both countries according to the classic American model of outlaw motorcycle clubs. Given these subcultural norms, it is no surprise that, as was the case in the US, OMCG members in Australia and New Zealand were regularly in the media spotlight. But for much of the 1970s and 1980s they were unwanted and regarded by the police with suspicion, but not as members of criminal organizations (Campbell & Campbell, 2010:48).

In 2021, the Australian Crime Intelligence Commission identified 38 outlaw motorcycle clubs currently active in Australia, collectively overseeing hundreds of chapters in every state and territory. Although these clubs have long been the target of police attention, particularly due to their suspected involvement in organized crime, recent high-profile events in Sydney involving the murders of OMCG members (along with other members of criminal organizations) have again drawn attention to conflicts within and between rival clubs (Cubitt et al., 2023: 1).

CONCLUSION

Today, motorcycle gangs are active all over the world. While many of these groups are still associated with crime, there are also a large number of motorcycle clubs that operate purely for the passion and love of motorcycling and have absolutely nothing to do with criminal activity. Motorcycle gangs have become complex organizations with hierarchies, rules and strong internal loyalties. Despite the negative stereotypes, many outlaw motorcycle gangs have managed to integrate into local communities and participate in humanitarian actions, although their past reputation often remains a very heavy burden.

The characteristics of motorcycle gangs are complex and rooted in their culture, structure and modus operandi. While many of these groups are associated with crime, they also represent a subculture with its own values, rituals and symbols. Their organization, loyalty and violence make them powerful and often dangerous actors in society.

OMCG represents a social phenomenon that can exist independently of criminal acts. Nevertheless, they serve as a valuable tool for participation in organized crime, as they offer both the secrecy and the ability to intimidate, which can encourage such activities. Within OMCG, two opposing cultures emerge: one is rooted in hypermasculinity and violence driven by honour and loyalty among clubs, and the other is a radical culture that uses these elements for criminal enterprises. While some state law enforcement agencies claim that all OMCGs are radical, there is a lack of evidence to support this claim.



Motorcycle gangs in the Nordic countries pose a serious threat to public safety and security, due to their involvement in organized crime and connections to international criminal networks. Although the Nordic countries combat these groups through legal, police and social measures, motorcycle gangs remain a significant challenge that requires constant attention and adaptation of strategies in accordance with changes in their operations.

Motorcycle gangs and organized crime share characteristics, especially when it comes to criminal activities. However, motorcycle gangs differ in their subcultural basis, structure, motives and social perception. While many motorcycle gangs are involved in serious crime, their members often see themselves as part of a specific subculture with its own code and way of life, which sets them apart from classic criminal organizations that are driven solely by profit. Motorcycle gangs are much more than just subcultural groups of motorcycle enthusiasts. Their involvement in organized crime makes them significant actors in the global criminal landscape. Their ability to combine violence, economic power, corruption and international operations allows them to operate as powerful and often terrifying criminal organizations. The fight against these gangs represents a serious challenge for authorities around the world, who face the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to effectively counter their influence.

Outlaw motorcycle clubs represent a specific security problem, given their connection with organized crime and international networks. Although their presence is not as pronounced as in some Western countries, gangs are involved in serious criminal activities that require the continuous attention of police and judicial authorities. In addition to repressive measures, preventive programs are also important that can help reduce the attractiveness of these groups among young people and vulnerable categories of the population. The relationship between OMCG and serious crimes is complex and often deeply rooted in the history of these groups. Although many motorcycle gangs are organized out of passion and enthusiasm for motorcycles, their involvement in criminal activities such as drug trafficking, weapons, extortion and violence make them a serious threat to public safety. Government responses to this threat vary from strict repression to attempts to rehabilitate and reintegrate members into society, but the problem still remains a challenge for many countries around the world.

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