Developing the Preventing Model of Transnational Crimes in Russia and Indonesia in the Age of Sanctions and Global Economic Instability

Toebagus Galang Windi Pratama [1, *]**, Ruslan Puzikov** [2]**, Sergey Lantsov** [3]**, Vadim Ponkratov** [4]**, Ekaterina Khomenko** [5]**, Larisa Vatutina** [6]**, and Gustavo Henrique Rodrigues Pessoa** [7]

[1] Faculty of Law, PGRI University of Semarang, Semarang 50232, Indonesia;

[2] Department of Civil Law, Institute of Law and National Security, Tambov State University named after G.R. Derzhavin, Tambov 392000, Russian Federation;

[3] Department of International Political Processes, Faculty of Political Science, Saint Petersburg State University, Saint Petersburg 199034, Russian Federation;

[4] Institute for Research on Socio-Economic Transformations and Financial Policy, Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, Moscow 125993, Russian Federation;

[5] Basic Department of the Charitable Foundation for the Support of Educational Programs "Captains" and "Innovative Management and Social Entrepreneurship", Faculty of Business "Captains", Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Moscow 117997, Russian Federation;

[6] Department of Management, Faculty of Economics and Management, Moscow Polytechnic University, Moscow 127994, Russian Federation;

[7] Fundação Getulio Vargas, São Paulo School of Business Administration, São Paulo 01302-907, Brazil.

* Corresponding author: galangwindipratama@outlook.com.

ABSTRACT: This study identifies and compares primary transnational crimes in Russia and Indonesia by investigating solutions tailored to each country's challenges. Using a qualitative comparative approach, we conducted expert interviews with 30 professionals from law enforcement, judiciary, and academia across both countries. This study reveals novel insights into the distinct patterns of transnational crime: Russia primarily faces cybercrime, economic offenses, and money laundering, while Indonesia grapples with human trafficking, environmental crimes, and maritime piracy. These findings contribute to a new understanding of geopolitical variations in transnational criminal activities. Additionally, the study emphasizes the importance of adapting to global instability and sanctions and proposes a preventive "Legal, Economic, Technological" model to address these challenges. This research also uncovers previously unexplored challenges in cross-border cooperation and the adaptation of legal frameworks to evolving criminal tactics. In particular, the model addresses gaps in current strategies by incorporating a more comprehensive and holistic approach to prevent transnational crimes, with a focus on diagnosis and strategic planning. Additionally, this study proposes directions for developing a preventive "Legal, Economic, Technological" model and preventing transnational crimes, including diagnosis and strategic planning. The study results are expected to support the understanding of gaps in current strategies and simultaneously reinforce the utilization of a holistic approach in the fight against complex transnational criminal activities in a global context.

Keywords: economic offenses, corruption, global instability, transnational crimes, preventing model, Russia, Indonesia, cybercrime, international law cooperation.

I. INTRODUCTION

The choice of the present research topic is determined by the scientific interests of the authors towards such a relevant modern problem as transnational crimes, which are defined by the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) as offenses that are "transnational in nature" and involve an "organized criminal group" [1]. More specifically, these are crimes that are (a) committed in more than one state; (b) committed in one state but substantially prepared, planned, directed, or controlled in another state; (c) committed in one state but involving an organized criminal group that engages in criminal activities in more than one state; or (d) committed in one state but has substantial effects in another state [1]. Transnational crimes have become increasingly complex and pervasive in the global landscape, posing significant challenges to the international security and justice systems. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reports that transnational organized crime generates an estimated $870 billion annually, equivalent to 1.5% of the global GDP [2]. This staggering figure underscores the magnitude of the problem and urgent need for effective prevention and prosecution strategies. The interplay between economic sanctions, global market fluctuations, and criminal activities creates a unique environment in which traditional approaches to crime prevention and prosecution often fall short. In the current global environment of sanctions and economic instability, traditional methods to combat transnational crime often fall short owing to new challenges and evolving criminal tactics [3].

The global landscape of criminal activity has become increasingly intricate, particularly in the context of international sanctions and economic instability [4, 5]. These conditions have exacerbated the emergence of novel transnational crimes, further complicating the effectiveness of traditional law enforcement efforts [6]. For instance, various reports highlight that trade-based money laundering and other forms of trade misinvoicing, exacerbated by complex sanctions regimes, account for an estimated $1.6 trillion in illicit flows annually from developing and emerging economies. These economic realities necessitate a re-evaluation of current strategies to combat transnational criminal offenses [7]. Transnational crimes represent a significant challenge to global security, involving illegal activities that cross national borders and that require international cooperation for effective management. These crimes encompass a wide range of activities, including organized crime, tax evasion, cybercrime, and human trafficking. The complexity of these crimes in a globalized economy underscores the need for integrated approaches that combine legal, economic, and technological strategies to address ever-evolving threats.

Transnational criminal law is distinct from international criminal law in that it focuses on crimes that cross borders and require international cooperation for enforcement. This distinction is crucial to understanding the legal mechanisms required to effectively address these crimes. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols provide a foundational legal framework for defining and combating transnational crimes, emphasizing the need for these provisions to be integrated into national legislation. Transnational tax crimes, such as tax evasion and income concealment by foreign entities, pose significant threats to national security and require a unified international approach for effective regulation and prosecution. Organized crime groups exploit global trends and weaknesses in state structures, engaging in diverse illicit activities, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cybercrime [7].

1. IMPACT ON NATIONAL STABILITY

Transnational crimes can destabilize nations by undermining their security and economic stability [8-9]. The effective combat of transnational crimes requires robust international cooperation among law enforcement agencies. This includes sharing information and coordinating efforts to track and prosecute offenders [10]. The lack of legal regulations in cyberspace poses challenges for investigating cyber-related transnational crimes, highlighting the need for improved information systems and legal frameworks [11]. The use of modern technologies and analytical tools can significantly enhance the detection and prosecution of transnational crimes. This includes developing systems for exchanging financial information and tracking illicit transactions. Information support systems, particularly in cybercrime investigations, are essential for managing the vast amounts of data involved in transnational crime cases [11]. While current frameworks and international efforts provide the basis for addressing transnational crimes, challenges remain. The complexity of these crimes, coupled with the rapid evolution of technology and globalization, requires continuous adaptation and enhancement of legal and cooperative measures.

Russia and Indonesia have presented compelling case studies to understand the diverse manifestations of transnational crime. Influential nations in their respective regions offer distinct geopolitical, economic, and

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environmental contexts that shape the nature of criminal activities within their borders [12, 13]. Russia's unique geopolitical position spanning Europe and Asia, combined with its political complexities, contributes to its distinctive criminal challenges, particularly cybercrime, economic offenses, and money laundering [14]. Similarly, Indonesia's position as a major archipelagic nation, surrounded by significant maritime trade routes, exposes it to transnational crimes, such as human trafficking, environmental violations, and piracy. Russia, with its vast territory spanning Eastern Europe and Asia, plays a crucial role in Eurasian geopolitics. Its unique position at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, coupled with its rich natural resources and complex political landscape, creates a distinctive environment for transnational criminal activity [14].

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelagic state and key player in Asia, presents a different set of challenges. Its geographical complexity, diverse population, and strategic location on major maritime trade routes make it susceptible to various forms of transnational crimes, particularly those related to maritime security and environmental offenses [15]. The selection of these two countries not only provides a rich comparative perspective, but also leverages researchers' direct access to local experts and data, ensuring a depth of insight that might be challenging to achieve for external researchers [16].

The current literature has explored various aspects of transnational crimes, focusing on their global impact and the challenges they pose to law enforcement and international cooperation [17]. Some scholars have focused on the broader implications of economic sanctions on criminal activity [18]. However, existing literature has not adequately addressed the intersection of sanctions, economic instability, and transnational crime prevention. Sanctions can inadvertently create opportunities for black market activities and smuggling networks [4]. Other researchers have investigated specific types of criminal offenses that emerge under conditions of economic instability [6]. The role of state actors in facilitating or combating emerging criminal offenses has also been a subject of scholarly attention [7]. Some studies have examined how states tacitly support or engage in criminal activities as a means of sanction-busting [4]. Conversely, the evolution of international law enforcement cooperation in response to transnational criminal threats has been explored [5].

Recent research has focused on the use of technology to combat transnational crimes [19, 20]. Big data analytics and artificial intelligence have shown promise in predicting and preventing criminal activity [17]. Blockchain technology and cryptocurrency analysis have emerged as tools for tracking illicit financial flows [15, 21]. Although these contributions are valuable, they primarily address technological solutions in isolation. Existing literature lacks a comprehensive framework that integrates technological approaches with legal and economic strategies to address the specific challenges posed by international criminal offenses. This gap is particularly evident when considering crimes that emerge under sanctions and economic instability, especially in diverse geopolitical contexts such as Russia and Indonesia. Although individual studies provide insights into particular aspects of this phenomenon, an integrated approach that can effectively respond to the complex and evolving nature of these crimes across different regional settings is needed. To address this gap, our study aimed to answer the following question:

RQ: How can a comprehensive framework be developed to address diverse transnational crimes across different geopolitical contexts effectively?

Therefore, the main objectives of the current study are set to:

1) Identify and compare the primary transnational crimes occurring in Russia and Indonesia;

2) Investigate potential solutions tailored to each country's specific challenges.

This study seeks to enhance the understanding of transnational crimes in diverse contexts, potentially informing more effective strategies for combating them globally. By focusing on Russia and Indonesia, this study aims to provide valuable lessons that may be applicable to other countries facing similar challenges. Moreover, the comparative nature of this study contributes to the broader field of transnational crime research by highlighting the importance of context-specific approaches for addressing global criminal activities.

The subsequent sections of this paper provide a comprehensive literature review, present the findings of our comparative analysis, discuss the implications of these findings, and conclude with recommendations for policy and practice to combat transnational crimes in Russia, Indonesia, and potentially beyond.

II.   LITERATURE REVIEW

The investigation of solutions for emerging transnational crimes between Russia and Indonesia in the context of sanctions and economic instability involves understanding the dynamics of international cooperation, economic challenges, and legal frameworks. Both countries face unique challenges due to geopolitical tensions and economic pressures, which necessitate strategic collaboration and policy reforms to effectively combat transnational crimes such as corruption and economic offenses.

1. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

Indonesia has been proactive in establishing Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) agreements to combat transnational crimes including corruption. The MLA agreement with Russia is a significant step in enhancing legal cooperation between the two nations and facilitating the exchange of information and legal assistance in criminal matters [22].

Strengthening international cooperation is also crucial for Russia, where transnational organized crime poses a significant threat. Enhancing legal frameworks and international partnerships can help counteract these crimes effectively [23]. The existing literature does not offer a direct examination of transnational crimes in Russia; however, it provides insights into various aspects of law enforcement and the legal challenges that could be tangentially related to the issue. The challenges posed by technological advances such as cloud computing, which complicate cross-border investigations, are relevant to understanding the current landscape of transnational crime in Russia [24].

Interestingly, while multiple studies touch upon the interaction between law enforcement agencies and criminal elements, as well as the legal and administrative frameworks that govern them, none of the papers directly address the specificities of transnational crimes in Russia. This gap suggests a potential area for further research, particularly in the context of how domestic law enforcement agencies in Russia are equipped to handle crimes that cross international borders, and how international cooperation is managed [24, 25].

2. NATURE OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES

Transnational crimes in Russia increasingly involve intellectual property violations facilitated by the Internet, where jurisdictional boundaries blur, thus complicating law enforcement efforts [26]. The rise of organized crime is linked to neoliberal policies, which have created economic disparities and weakened social controls, fostering environments conducive to criminal activities [27].

3. COUNTERMEASURES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Proposals for combating transnational crimes include strengthening international collaboration and improving Russia's criminal legislation to address the evolving nature of these crimes [23, 28]. The effectiveness of current measures is hindered by insufficient investigative practices and lack of comprehensive strategies, necessitating a focus on enhancing analytical capabilities and community cooperation [28, 29].

While this research underscores the urgent need for reform, it also suggests that the complexities of transnational crime may outpace current legal and enforcement mechanisms, indicating a potential gap in effective governance and policy implementation. Transnational crimes in Indonesia encompass a wide array of offenses, including but not limited to human trafficking, cybercrime, drug trafficking, and terrorism [30]. These crimes are not confined to national borders, and often require international cooperation and legal frameworks for effective management and prevention. Research on this subject is multifaceted, and examines legal, diplomatic, and security strategies to address the challenges posed by such crimes.

Interestingly, while international conventions and treaties are mechanisms to combat transnational crimes, Indonesian criminal law faces limitations in enforcing laws against transnational criminals outside their jurisdiction, particularly when it comes to contemporary legal subjects such as artificial intelligence [31]. Moreover, geopolitical incidents, such as Australia's wiretapping of Indonesian officials, have strained bilateral relations and impacted cooperation in combating transnational crimes [32]. On the other hand, Indonesia has engaged in defense diplomacy through the Trilateral Cooperative Agreement (TCA) with Malaysia and the Philippines to address transnational crimes at maritime borders, demonstrating a proactive approach to regional security [33].

In summary, existing research indicates that Indonesia is actively pursuing various strategies to address transnational crimes, from legal reforms and international treaties to regional defense diplomacy and bilateral cooperation. However, challenges persist, owing to jurisdictional limitations, geopolitical tensions, and the evolving nature of transnational crimes. Future research could focus on the effectiveness of these strategies, the role of technology in facilitating and combating transnational crimes, and the impact of international relations on enforcement efforts [31-33].

Transnational crimes in Indonesia, particularly drug trafficking, human smuggling, and money laundering, pose significant challenges to law enforcement and societal stability. Recent research has highlighted the multifaceted nature of these crimes and the responses required to effectively combat them.

4. DRUG TRAFFICKING

Indonesia's strategic location makes it a prime transit hub for drug trafficking, as evidenced by UNODC's involvement in addressing these issues through capacity-building programs and alternative development initiatives [34]. Fredy Pratama underscores the severe implications of drug-related crimes on national security and youth welfare [35].

5. HUMAN SMUGGLING

Human smuggling remains a critical issue, particularly on the Riau Islands (Province of Indonesia) where illegal migration routes are exploited. The province facilitates transnational crimes exacerbated by sectoral egos in law enforcement [36].

6. MONEY LAUNDERING

Transnational corruption and money laundering further complicated Indonesia's criminal landscape. Effective strategies for law enforcement must include regulatory reforms, enhanced international cooperation, and public engagement to combat pervasive issues [37].

While these studies emphasize the severity of transnational crimes, they also highlight the potential for improved governance and international collaboration to mitigate these challenges effectively.

III. METHODOLOGY

1. RESEARCH DESIGN

This study employs a qualitative comparative approach to investigate transnational crimes in Russia and Indonesia. This method was chosen because of its ability to provide in-depth insights into complex social phenomena in real-world contexts [38]. This comparative design allows for the exploration of similarities and differences in transnational criminal activities and related challenges between the two countries, offering a nuanced understanding of how these issues manifest in different geopolitical and socioeconomic environments.

The research method flowchart presented in Figure 1 outlines a systematic approach for investigating transnational crimes in Russia and Indonesia.

Literature Review

Review existing research on transnational crimes in Russia and Indonesia, focusing on current trends, challenges, and strategies.

Expert Interviews

Conduct semi-structured interviews with 30 experts (15 from each country) across law enforcement, judiciary, and academia to gather in-depth insights on transnational crimes.

Data Analysis

Analyze interview data using a qualitative comparative approach, identifying key themes, patterns, and differences between the two countries.

Comparative Analysis

Compare findings between Russia and Indonesia, highlighting similarities and differences in transnational crime patterns, challenges, and current approaches.

Development of the Proposed Model

Synthesize findings into a comprehensive framework.

FIGURE 1. Research method flowchart.

The study begins with a comprehensive literature review, focusing on the current trends, challenges, and strategies related to transnational crimes in both countries. This was followed by expert interviews, where semi-structured discussions were conducted with 30 experts (15 from each country) across law enforcement, the judiciary, and academia to gather in-depth insights. The data analysis phase employed a qualitative comparative approach to identify key themes, patterns, and differences between the two countries. A comparative analysis highlighted the similarities and differences in transnational crime patterns, challenges, and current approaches between Russia and Indonesia. The final step involves the development of the proposed model, in which the findings are synthesized into a comprehensive framework. This methodical progression from literature review to model development ensures a thorough exploration of the topic, combining theoretical knowledge with practical insights to create a robust understanding of transnational crimes in diverse geopolitical contexts.

2. DATA COLLECTION

The primary data collection method used in this study consisted of expert interviews, supplemented by document analysis. Interview participants were selected using a purposive sampling strategy to ensure representation from key sectors involved in combating transnational crimes in both Russia and Indonesia.

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the study participants (n = 30), who were equally distributed between Russia (n = 15) and Indonesia (n = 15). The participants were selected based on their extensive professional experience (at least 10 years) and recognized expertise in combating transnational crimes. Experts were selected from three key sectors: Law Enforcement, Judiciary, and Academia, to ensure a balanced representation of individuals actively involved in relevant initiatives.

Table 1. Demographic information of study participants.

ID	Country	Sector	Position	Gender	Age	Education	Years of experience
R1	Russia	Law Enforcement	Lawyer, Criminal Defence Specialist	M	48	Master's	22
R2	Russia	Law Enforcement	Lawyer, International Law Expert	M	55	Ph.D.	30
R3	Russia	Law Enforcement	Lawyer, Financial Crimes Specialist	F	42	Master's	15
R4	Russia	Law Enforcement	Lawyer, Cybercrime Expert	M	39	Bachelor's	14
R5	Russia	Law Enforcement	Lawyer, Human Rights Advocate	F	51	Ph.D.	25
R6	Russia	Judiciary	Judge, Supreme Court	M	59	Ph.D.	33
R7	Russia	Judiciary	Senior Prosecutor	F	45	Master's	20
R8	Russia	Judiciary	Appellate Court Judge	M	53	Master's	27
R9	Russia	Judiciary	Federal Judge	F	47	Master's	21
R10	Russia	Judiciary	Chief Prosecutor	M	56	Ph.D.	30
R11	Russia	Academia	Professor, Moscow State University	M	62	Ph.D.	35
R12	Russia	Academia	Senior Researcher, Russian Academy of Sciences	F	49	Ph.D.	24
R13	Russia	Academia	Associate Professor, Higher School of Economics	F	41	Ph.D.	15
R14	Russia	Academia	Research Fellow, MGIMO University	M	38	Ph.D.	12
R15	Russia	Academia	Department Head, Saint Petersburg State University	F	57	Ph.D.	30
I1	Indonesia	Law Enforcement	Commissioner, National Police	M	54	Master's	29
I2	Indonesia	Law Enforcement	Director, BNN	F	49	Master's	24
I3	Indonesia	Law Enforcement	Senior Investigator,	M	43	Bachelor's	18

			PPATK				
I4	Indonesia	Law Enforcement	Deputy Director, Maritime Security Agency	F	46	Master's	21
I5	Indonesia	Law Enforcement	Chief Inspector, Customs and Excise	M	51	Master's	26
I6	Indonesia	Judiciary	Justice, Supreme Court	F	58	Ph.D.	32
I7	Indonesia	Judiciary	Senior Judge, Anti-Corruption Court	M	52	Master's	27
I8	Indonesia	Judiciary	Chief Prosecutor, AGO	F	55	Master's	29
I9	Indonesia	Judiciary	Commissioner, Judicial Commission	M	60	Ph.D.	34
I10	Indonesia	Judiciary	Judge, District Court	F	44	Master's	19
I11	Indonesia	Academia	Professor, University of Indonesia	M	63	Ph.D.	36
I12	Indonesia	Academia	Senior Lecturer, Gadjah Mada University	F	47	Ph.D.	22
I13	Indonesia	Academia	Research Director, LIPI	M	56	Ph.D.	30
I14	Indonesia	Academia	Associate Professor, Padjadjaran University	F	42	Ph.D.	16
I15	Indonesia	Academia	Head of Department, Airlangga University	M	59	Ph.D.	33

The sample comprised experts from three key sectors–Law Enforcement, Judiciary, and Academia–with five participants from each sector per country. The gender distribution was relatively balanced, with 16 males and 14 females across the entire sample. Participants' ages ranged from 38 to 63 years (M = 51.1, SD = 7.2). In terms of educational attainment, the majority of participants (70%, n = 21) held doctoral degrees, whereas the remaining 30% (n = 9) held master's degrees. Professional experience among the participants varied widely, ranging from 12 to 36 years (M = 25.4; SD = 6.8).

This diverse sample, representing various positions within their respective fields, provides a comprehensive cross-section of expertise in transnational crime across both countries, thus enhancing this study's potential for rich, multifaceted insights. Experts were selected based on their extensive experience (minimum 10 years), recognized expertise, and active involvement in relevant initiatives. To ensure reliability, the Delphi technique for expert consensus was employed [39], enhancing the validity of the gathered insights.

3. INTERVIEW PROCESS

The interviews were conducted in a semi-structured format, allowing for flexibility, while ensuring that key topics were covered consistently across all interviews. The interview guide focused on the following areas.

1. Prevalent types of transnational crimes in the respective countries

2. Challenges in investigating and prosecuting these crimes

3. Current strategies and their effectiveness in combating transnational crimes

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4. POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING APPROACHES

Interviews lasted 60-90 minutes each and were conducted for participants in Russia and for Indonesia. Participants were informed that their responses would remain anonymous. To ensure this, the interviews were coded with unique identifiers, transcripts were anonymized, and data were stored in encrypted files accessible only to authorized researchers.

Interviews were conducted in person at participants' workplaces from April 2024 to June 2024. All interviews were audio-recorded with participants' consent and later transcribed for analysis. This methodology allowed for a comprehensive exploration of transnational crimes in Russia and Indonesia, providing rich contextual data from experts directly involved in addressing these issues in their respective countries.

5. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ethical considerations in this study were paramount to ensuring the integrity of the research process. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, who were informed about the purpose of the study, their right to withdraw, and the confidentiality of their responses. Data privacy was maintained by anonymizing participants' identities and securely storing the interview transcripts. Ethical approval was obtained from relevant research ethics committees of the institutions involved in this study. Furthermore, sensitive information, particularly data related to law enforcement and judicial practices, was handled with care, ensuring that no participants' privacy or professional integrity was compromised.

6. DATA ANALYSIS

The data were analyzed using a qualitative comparative analysis approach. Thematic analysis was employed to identify the key patterns and themes emerging from the interviews. This allowed for an in-depth comparison of the transnational crime challenges, strategies, and solutions in both Russia and Indonesia. Triangulation was employed by combining the interview data with document analysis to enhance the validity of the findings.

The interview results were triangulated with secondary data from relevant legal and policy documents, government reports, and academic studies. This approach ensured that the findings were not only grounded in expert perspectives, but also aligned with the existing body of research. Data validation was conducted by cross-referencing the findings across multiple participants and sectors.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES IN RUSSIA AND INDONESIA

The results of these interviews revealed distinct patterns of transnational criminal activity in Russia and Indonesia, reflecting their unique geopolitical, economic and environmental contexts. In Russia, experts have identified six primary transnational crimes: cybercrime, money laundering, human trafficking and smuggling, arms trafficking, and drug trafficking. Cybercrime has emerged as a significant concern, encompassing a wide range of illegal activities conducted through digital means, including hacking, fraud, and the theft of sensitive information [40]. Money laundering, the process of concealing the origins of illegally obtained money, was highlighted as a persistent issue often intertwined with other criminal activities [41].

Smuggling have been identified as the major concerns in Russia [42]. Arm trafficking remains a significant issue in Russia. The scale of the problem is evidenced by recent law enforcement efforts; in 2023, Russian authorities conducted large-scale operations across 53 regions, resulting in the seizure of thousands of illegal firearms and explosive devices. This operation also led to the dismantling of 84 underground weapons caches, highlighting the extensive nature of arm-trafficking networks within the country [43]. The new flows of illegal arms, and contributed to a substantial increase in firearm-related crimes in recent years [44]. Finally, drug trafficking involving global illegal trade of controlled substances remains a persistent challenge for Russian law enforcement. In 2021, Russian authorities seized over 22 tons of drugs, including 1.5 tons of synthetic drugs [44]. Drug trade remains a significant issue, with heroin from Afghanistan still entering Russia through Central Asia or the South Caucasus [45].

In Indonesia, experts have identified a somewhat different set of prevalent transnational crimes: human trafficking and smuggling, cybercrime, environmental crimes, illegal fishing, wildlife trafficking, and maritime

piracy. Human trafficking and smuggling are the major issues reflecting Indonesia's complex geographical and socioeconomic landscape [46]. Cybercrime has also been identified as a growing concern, mirroring global trends in digital criminal activities [47].

Environmental crimes have emerged as a significant issue specific to Indonesia, encompassing activities such as illegal logging, pollution, and destruction of protected habitats. This is closely related to illegal fishing, which involves unauthorized fishing activities, often in protected waters, or using prohibited methods, posing a threat to marine ecosystems and local economies [48]. Wildlife trafficking, the illegal trade of protected animals and plant species, was identified as another major transnational crime affecting Indonesia given its rich biodiversity.

Finally, maritime piracy has been highlighted as a persistent transnational crime in Indonesian waters. This involves armed robbery and hijacking of vessels, posing threats to international maritime trade and security [49].

The identification of these specific transnational crimes in Russia and Indonesia underscores the complex and diverse nature of the criminal activities that transcend national borders. While some crimes are common in both countries, others reflect the unique challenges faced by each nation. This diversity in criminal activities necessitates a multifaceted approach to law enforcement and international cooperation, as discussed in subsequent sections addressing legal, economic, and technological solutions.

2. SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES

After identifying major transnational crimes, experts were asked about potential solutions to address these crimes. Through our analysis, we discovered that these solutions could be categorized into three general approaches: legal, economic, and technological. This categorization emerged organically as we reviewed the proposed solutions, reflecting the multifaceted nature of combating transnational crime in these two countries (see Figure 2).

Figure 2 illustrates the application of the LET Model to the various transnational crimes identified in Russia and Indonesia. The diagram is divided into two sections, representing each country and showing the primary transnational crimes prevalent in each country. For Russia, the main crimes depicted were cybercrime, money laundering, arms trafficking, and drug trafficking. By contrast, Indonesia's section highlights human trafficking and smuggling, cybercrime, environmental crimes, illegal fishing, wildlife trafficking, and maritime piracy.
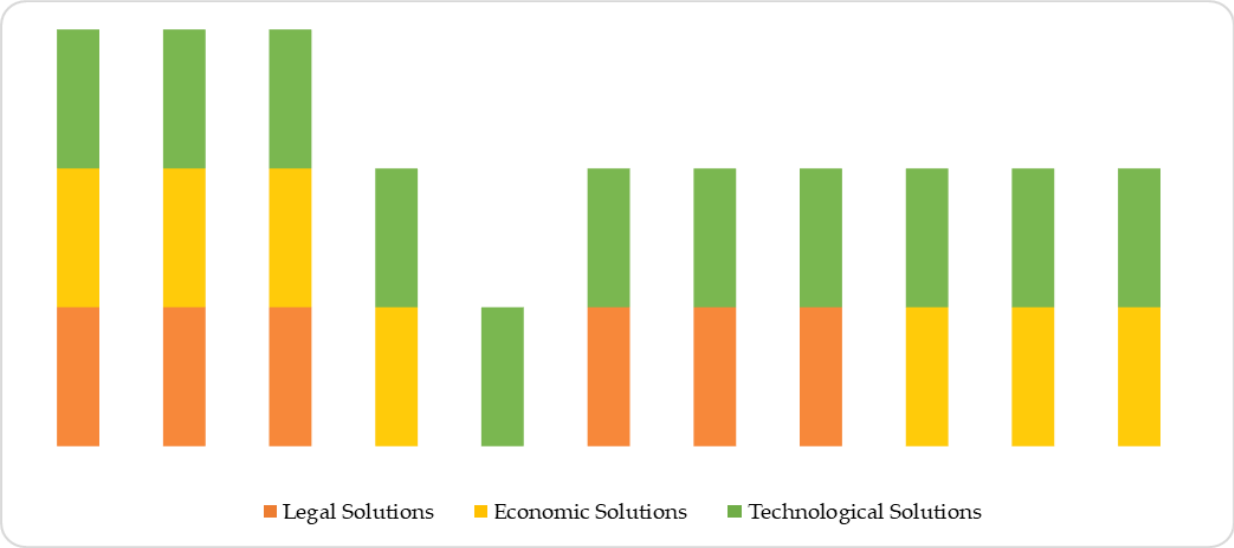

FIGURE 2. Transnational crimes and corresponding solution types in Russia and Indonesia.

As Table 2 shows, our findings indicate that legal approaches play a crucial role in addressing cybercrime and money laundering in Russia.

Table 2. Transnational crimes and corresponding solutions in Russia and Indonesia.

Country	Crime Type	Legal Solutions	Economic Solutions	Technological Solutions
Russia	Cybercrime	- Enhance extraterritorial jurisdiction - Strengthen international cooperation	- Implement targeted financial sanctions - Enhance beneficial ownership transparency	- Employ big data analytics - Utilize AI and machine learning
	Money Laundering	- Implement UNCAC framework - Apply RICO-like legislation	- Utilize blockchain and cryptocurrency analysis - Implement OFAC-style sanctions	- Employ big data analytics for financial data
	Arms Trafficking		- Enhance beneficial ownership transparency - Implement blockchain-based tracking	- Implement blockchain-based tracking systems
Indonesia	Drug Trafficking			- Employ big data analytics - Implement AI-driven predictive analysis
	Human Trafficking & Smuggling	- Strengthen extraterritorial jurisdiction - Enhance international cooperation		- Implement real-time monitoring and surveillance - Use AI-powered algorithms for pattern recognition
	Cybercrime	- Implement forum non conveniens principles - Adopt RICO-like legislation		- Employ big data analytics - Utilize AI and machine learning
	Environmental Crimes	- Utilize extraterritorial jurisdiction - Implement UNCAC-style conventions		- Employ satellite monitoring and drone surveillance - Implement big data analytics
	Illegal Fishing		- Implement targeted financial sanctions - Enhance beneficial ownership transparency	- Employ satellite monitoring and drone surveillance
	Wildlife Trafficking		- Utilize blockchain and cryptocurrency analysis - Implement OFAC-style sanctions	- Implement AI-driven predictive analysis
	Maritime Piracy		- Enhance beneficial ownership transparency - Implement blockchain-based tracking	- Implement real-time monitoring and surveillance

Enhancing extraterritorial jurisdiction to prosecute cybercriminals operating across borders is paramount [50]. This approach, coupled with strengthening international cooperation through cybercrime treaties and conventions, can significantly bolster the legal framework against cyber threats [46]. To combat money laundering, the United Nations Convention on Corruption (UNCAC) offers a comprehensive strategy for prevention and prosecution [51]. Additionally, applying RICO-like legislation to target transnational criminal organizations involved in money laundering could prove effective [52].

Economic approaches in Russia have focused on cybercrime, money laundering, and arms trafficking. Implementing targeted financial sanctions against individuals and entities engaged in cybercrime and money laundering can disrupt their operations. Enhancing beneficial ownership transparency is crucial for uncovering

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the true owners of companies involved in these crimes [48]. Utilizing blockchain technology and cryptocurrency analysis can significantly improve the tracking of illicit financial flows associated with money laundering and arms trafficking [41]. Furthermore, the implementation of OFAC-style sanctions against individuals and entities involved in these crimes could be an effective deterrent.

Technological solutions in Russia are particularly relevant for combating cybercrime and drug trafficking. Employing big data analytics can help identify patterns and anomalies indicative of cybercriminal activities [40], whereas utilizing AI and machine learning for predictive analysis can anticipate and prevent cyberattacks [47]. For human and drug trafficking, implementing real-time monitoring and surveillance technology such as ALPR systems and facial recognition software can track the movement of suspected criminals [42]. AI-powered algorithms can analyze large datasets to identify trafficking patterns and networks [53], whereas big-data analytics can be employed to analyze financial data and identify suspicious activities related to drug trafficking [54].

In Indonesia, legal approaches are crucial for addressing human trafficking, cybercrimes, and environmental crimes. Strengthening extraterritorial jurisdiction to prosecute traffickers operating across borders is essential [50], as it enhances international cooperation through specialized agreements on human trafficking [46]. Implementing forum non-convenient principles can prevent criminals from exploiting jurisdictional weaknesses [55, 56], whereas adopting RICO-like legislation can effectively target transnational cybercriminal organizations [52]. To combat environmental crimes, utilizing extraterritorial jurisdiction to prosecute criminals operating across borders and implementing UNCAC-style conventions specifically targeting environmental crimes can be effective strategies [51].

Economic approaches to Indonesia have focused on illegal fishing, wildlife trafficking, and maritime piracy. Implementing targeted financial sanctions against individuals and entities involved in illegal fishing activities can disrupt these operations, whereas enhancing beneficial ownership transparency in the fishing industry can uncover illicit operations [57]. Utilizing blockchain technology and cryptocurrency analysis to track financial flows can be highly effective [41] because it can implement OFAC-style sanctions against involved individuals and entities. In addressing maritime piracy, enhancing beneficial ownership transparency in the shipping industry and implementing blockchain-based systems for tracking ship movements and cargo can significantly reduce piracy-related activities [41].

Technological solutions in Indonesia are particularly relevant for combating cybercrime, human trafficking, and environmental crimes. As in Russia, employing big data analytics and AI for cybercrime prevention is crucial [40, 47]. For trafficking, implementing real-time monitoring and surveillance technology coupled with AI-powered algorithms to analyze large datasets can effectively identify and disrupt trafficking networks [42, 53]. In addressing environmental crimes, employing satellite monitoring and drone surveillance enhanced by AI to detect illegal logging and mining activities, along with implementing big data analytics to analyze environmental data and identify patterns of environmental crimes, can significantly enhance law enforcement capabilities [54]. These findings highlight the complex and interconnected nature of transnational crimes in Russia and Indonesia as well as the diverse approaches required to combat them effectively. The legal, economic, and technological solutions identified in this study offer a comprehensive framework for addressing these challenges, emphasizing the need for a multifaceted and collaborative approach to fight against transnational crime.

3. PROPOSED THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: THE LET MODEL

Based on the findings of this study, we propose a new theoretical framework for addressing transnational crimes, the LET Model. This model, developed from our comparative analysis of transnational crimes in Russia and Indonesia, offers a comprehensive approach to combat these complex international criminal activities. The LET Model represents Legal, Economic, and Technological solutions, representing the three primary dimensions through which transnational crimes can be effectively addressed.

To illustrate the application of the LET Model to the various transnational crimes identified in our study, we developed a table that maps each crime to its corresponding solution types. This table serves as a visual representation of our proposed framework and provides a quick reference for policymakers and law enforcement agencies to understand the approaches that may be most effective for different types of transnational crimes.

Table 3 illustrates the application of the LET Model to the various transnational crimes identified in this study. The columns represent the three components of the model: legal (L), economic (E), and technological (T). The rows list the different types of transnational crimes observed across both countries.

Table 3. Application of the LET model to transnational crimes.

Crime Type	Legal solutions	Economic solutions	Technological solutions
Cybercrimes	*	*	*
Money Laundering	*	*	*
Human Trafficking & Smuggling	*	*	*
Arm Trafficking		*	*
Drug Trafficking			*
Environmental Crimes	*		*
Illegal Fishing		*	*
Wildlife Trafficking		*	*
Maritime Piracy		*	*

The LET model provides several important insights into the nature of transnational crimes and the complexity of combating them. First, it is evident that most crimes require a multifaceted approach that often involves two or all three types of solutions. For instance, cybercrime and money laundering, two of the most prevalent transnational crimes, necessitate legal, economic, and technological intervention. This underscores the complexity of these crimes and the need for comprehensive strategies to effectively address them.

Second, the table highlights the crucial role of technological solutions in combating almost all types of transnational crime. This aligns with our finding that there is an urgent need for law enforcement agencies to upgrade their technological capability. Whether using big data analytics to detect patterns in cybercrime or implementing real-time monitoring systems for human trafficking, technology plays a pivotal role in modern crime-fighting strategies. Legal solutions are particularly important for crimes, such as cybercrime, money laundering, human trafficking, and environmental crimes. This reflects our finding that more flexible and adaptive legal frameworks are needed to address emerging forms of transnational crimes. It also underscores the importance of international cooperation, as many of these crimes cross national borders and require coordinated legal response. Economic solutions, which are not applicable to all crimes, play a significant role in addressing financial crimes such as money laundering as well as resource-based crimes such as illegal fishing, wildlife trafficking, and maritime piracy. This aligns with our recommendation for significant reforms in the financial sector and implementation of targeted financial sanctions. Notably, this model is a simplified representation of complex phenomena. The actual implementation of these solutions requires careful consideration of the specific context, resources, and legal framework of each country. Moreover, the effectiveness of each solution type may vary depending on the specific circumstances and the evolution of each crime.

The LET Model, as proposed in this study, offers a structured approach to addressing transnational crimes. Categorizing solutions into Legal, Economic, and Technological dimensions provides a comprehensive framework for policymakers and law enforcement agencies to develop targeted strategies. This model emphasizes the need for a multifaceted approach to combating transnational crimes, reflecting the complex and evolving nature of these criminal activities in our increasingly interconnected world.

4. THEORETICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

This comparative study of transnational crimes in Russia and Indonesia offers several significant theoretical contributions to the fields of criminology and international security studies, most notably through the development of the LET (Legal, Economic, and Technological) model. By examining these two distinct geopolitical and socioeconomic contexts, this study advances our understanding of how transnational crimes manifest differently across diverse settings, and synthesizes these insights into a comprehensive framework. The LET Model represents a significant advancement in our approach to combating transnational crimes, offering far more than a mere categorization of solutions. Its primary strength lies in providing an integrated framework that emphasizes the interconnectedness of legal, economic, and technological strategies, promoting a holistic

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approach to addressing complex criminal activities. This cohesive structure allows for remarkable adaptability and scalability, making the model applicable across various types of transnational crimes and geopolitical contexts. As a diagnostic tool, the LET Model excels in identifying gaps in current strategies and pinpointing areas where efforts may be lacking or imbalanced. Law enforcement agencies and policymakers serve as robust strategic planning frameworks, encouraging the consideration of all three dimensions when formulating responses to transnational crimes, potentially leading to more effective and sustainable solutions.

Furthermore, the utility of the LET Model extends to its capacity as a comparative analysis tool, facilitating an easier comparison of approaches across different countries or regions. This comparative potential could lead to the identification of best practices and transfer of successful strategies across borders. The model also allows for tracking the evolution of responses to transnational crimes over time, providing valuable insights into the changing nature of criminal activities and law enforcement strategies. As a policy evaluation framework, it offers a structured way to assess whether current policies adequately address all three dimensions: legal, economic, and technological. This approach ensures that policymakers and researchers can evaluate the effectiveness of existing strategies and identify areas for improvement, ultimately contributing to more robust and adaptive responses to the ever-evolving transnational crime landscape.

The findings of this study revealed the deeply interconnected nature of various transnational criminal activities. This is particularly evident in the linkages between cybercrime and money laundering in Russia, and between environmental crimes, illegal fishing, and wildlife trafficking in Indonesia. This interconnectedness suggests a need for more holistic theoretical models that can capture the complex ecosystems of transnational criminal activities, acknowledging that these crimes do not occur in isolation, but are part of a broader, interlinked criminal landscape.

A central insight of this study is the pivotal role of technology in facilitating and combating transnational crimes. This contribution enriches the growing body of theory on the impact of digital technologies on criminal behavior and law enforcement responses. This suggests a need for more dynamic and technology-oriented criminological theories that can account for the rapid pace of technological change and its implications for transnational criminal activities.

This study also sheds light on the remarkable adaptive capacity of transnational criminal networks to respond to legal, economic, and technological interventions. This observation contributes to theories of criminal organization and evolution, suggesting that future theoretical frameworks need to incorporate elements of complexity and adaptive systems theory. Understanding this adaptability is crucial for developing effective and sustainable approaches to combating transnational crimes. By categorizing solutions into legal, economic, and technological approaches, this study contributes to a more comprehensive theoretical framework for addressing transnational crimes. This multidimensional approach enhances our understanding of the diverse tools and strategies available to combat global criminal activity. This finding suggests that effective responses to transnational crimes require an integrated theoretical perspective that accounts for the interplay between these domains.

Finally, this study advances the field of comparative criminology by demonstrating the value of cross-national comparisons in understanding transnational crimes. This study provides a methodological framework for future comparative studies, contributing to the development of more robust comparative theories in criminology. This approach not only enriches our understanding of transnational crimes in specific contexts but also helps identify broader patterns and principles that can inform global strategies to combat these criminal activities.

5. PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

A comparative analysis of transnational crimes in Russia and Indonesia has several important practical implications for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and international organizations. These insights can guide the development of effective strategies to combat transnational criminal activity across diverse geopolitical contexts. This study underscores the critical need for context-specific strategies to address transnational crimes. Law enforcement agencies and policymakers should develop approaches tailored to the unique challenges and criminal landscapes of their respective countries. For instance, in Russia, there should be a stronger focus on cybercrime prevention and anti-money laundering. By contrast, efforts in Indonesia should prioritize combating human trafficking, environmental crimes, and maritime piracy. This tailored approach

recognizes that, while transnational crimes are global in nature, their manifestations and impacts can vary significantly based on local and regional factors.

The prominence of cybercrime and the increasing sophistication of criminal networks highlights the urgent need for law enforcement agencies to upgrade their technological capabilities. This includes investing in advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence tools for predictive policing and pattern recognition, developing specialized cybercrime units with cutting-edge digital forensic capabilities, and implementing real-time monitoring systems to detect and prevent various forms of transnational crimes. By enhancing their technological prowess, law enforcement agencies can keep pace with the rapidly evolving tactics of transnational criminal organizations and improve their ability to prevent, detect, and respond to criminal activities in the digital realm.

The transnational nature of these crimes necessitates improved international collaborations. Practical steps in this direction include establishing more robust information-sharing mechanisms between countries, developing joint task forces for cross-border investigations, and harmonizing legal frameworks to facilitate smoother international prosecutions. Enhanced international cooperation can help overcome the jurisdictional challenges often faced when dealing with crimes that span multiple countries, allowing for more effective tracking and prosecution of transnational criminal networks.

This study also highlights the need for a more flexible and adaptive legal framework. Policymakers should regularly review and update laws to address emerging forms of transnational crimes, implement legislation that enhances extraterritorial jurisdiction to prosecute transnational criminals, and adopt RICO-style laws that can effectively target complex criminal organizations. These legal updates are crucial for ensuring that law enforcement agencies have the necessary tools and authority to combat evolving forms of transnational crime, particularly those enabled by new technologies or exploiting gaps in existing legal frameworks.

Given the prevalence of money laundering and other financial crimes, this study highlights the need for significant financial sector reforms. These include implementing more stringent Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) protocols, enhancing beneficial ownership transparency to prevent the misuse of corporate structures for criminal activities, and leveraging blockchain technology for transparent and traceable financial transactions. By strengthening financial sector regulations and embracing innovative technologies, countries can make it more difficult for criminal organizations to move and conceal illicit funds, thereby disrupting a crucial component of many transnational criminal operations.

V.   CONCLUSION

This study provides a comprehensive comparative analysis of transnational crimes in Russia and Indonesia, revealing the similarities and distinct challenges faced by each country. In Russia, we identified cybercrime and money laundering as the primary concerns, whereas Indonesia grapples significantly with human trafficking, environmental crimes, and maritime piracy. Despite these differences, both countries face challenges related to the increasing sophistication of criminal networks and need for enhanced international cooperation.

Our findings highlight the effectiveness of certain strategies, such as the use of advanced technologies in cybercrime prevention and the implementation of stricter financial regulations to combat money laundering. However, challenges persist, particularly in the areas of cross-border cooperation and adaptation of legal frameworks to address evolving criminal tactics. Theoretically, this study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on transnational crimes by providing insight into how these activities manifest in diverse geopolitical and socioeconomic contexts. It advances the field of comparative criminology by demonstrating the value of context-specific analyses in understanding global criminal phenomena.

Practically, our findings suggest several recommendations for law enforcement agencies, including the need for continuous technological upgrades and specialized training to combat cyber-enabled crimes. For Russia, the study's findings highlight cybercrime, economic offenses, and money laundering as the primary concerns. To address these issues, Russia should prioritize technological upgrades in law enforcement, particularly in cybercrime units. Implementing stricter financial regulations and enhancing cross-border cooperation for information sharing are crucial. This study also suggests the need for more flexible legal frameworks to keep pace with evolving cyber threats and financial crimes. Indonesia's challenges, as identified in this study, center on human trafficking, environmental crimes, and maritime piracy. Based on these findings, Indonesia should focus on strengthening border control technologies and enhancing its maritime surveillance capabilities. This study also emphasizes the importance of international collaboration, particularly within the ASEAN region, to

effectively combat these transnational crimes. Additionally, adapting legal frameworks to address environmental crimes more comprehensively is recommended, based on the research outcomes.

Although this study provides valuable insights, it is important to acknowledge its limitations. The LET Model, while developed for specific transnational crimes in Russia and Indonesia, shows the potential for broader applicability. Its flexible Legal, Economic, and Technological framework suggests its adaptability to various transnational criminal activities beyond those studied. The versatility of the model in addressing diverse crimes indicates its promise for wider applications. However, its effectiveness for other types of transnational crimes requires further empirical validation through future research, potentially leading to refinements that ensure comprehensive coverage of global transnational criminal activities. Future studies could expand this comparative approach to include other countries or regions, thus providing a more global perspective on transnational crime. Quantitative studies can complement our qualitative findings by providing statistical validation of the identified patterns and trends. Areas requiring further in-depth investigation include the impact of emerging technologies on transnational criminal activities, and the effectiveness of international legal instruments in combating these crimes. Finally, the rapidly evolving nature of transnational crimes poses a challenge to the long-term applicability of our findings. Criminal networks have continuously adapted their methods in response to law enforcement and technological advancements. Consequently, some of the specific criminal activities, trends, or countermeasures identified in this study may quickly become outdated. This temporal limitation underscores the need for ongoing research to keep pace with the dynamic landscape of transnational criminal activity.

This study marks a significant step toward addressing the complex challenges posed by transnational crimes in diverse global contexts. By highlighting the unique and shared challenges faced by Russia and Indonesia, we emphasize the importance of tailored, context-specific approaches to combat global criminal activities. These findings underscore the need for dynamic collaborative strategies that can adapt to the evolving landscape of transnational crime.

As criminal networks continue to exploit globalization and technological advancements, the importance of research in this field cannot be overstated. We call for continued international cooperation not only in law enforcement operations but also in research and knowledge sharing. Through such collaborative efforts, we hope to develop effective global strategies to combat transnational crimes and to enhance international security.

In conclusion, although the challenges posed by transnational crimes are formidable, this study provides a foundation for more informed and nuanced approaches to address these issues. We hope that these insights contribute to more effective policies and practices, ultimately leading to a safer and more secure global environment.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Data Availability Statement

Data are available from the authors upon request.

Acknowledgments

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