

A STUDY ON INTERNATIONALLY WANTED OFFENDERS

Mehmet Akalin, PhD

Elmadag Vocational Police School

Abstract

The discovery of crime causes has been an important goal for both law enforcement agencies and criminologists for years. The criminal justice system has gained tremendous acquisition in this search. The law enforcement agencies in every country have been advancing their positions against crime and criminals. However, the fight against crime on international level has not yielded expected results yet. In fact, invention and the improvement of transportation means have moved criminals to international arena. International Criminal Police Organization-INTERPOL was established in 1923 to fight international crime more effectively by increasing police cooperation in the world. The red notice, without any doubt, is the most significant tools in fighting crime of this organization. INTERPOL has started publishing red notices on its official web site for more effective struggle against crime. This article is written primarily to unfold whether internationally wanted offenders will display similar features that earlier criminological studies have discovered. The next concern of this article is to find possible discrepancies among countries for issuing red notices.

Keywords: Red Notice, crime, international offenders

Introduction

Studies on crime have revealed that age is one of the best significant factor in explanation of crime (Matza, 1964; Greenberg, 1979 and Trasler, 1980). Studies have also indicated that many forms of crime peak in the transient between adolescence and adulthood, and decrease in the following years (Friday and Hage, 1976; Greenberg, 1977 and Glaser, 1978). In fact, crime doesn't level off but it declines gradually with advancing age (Hirschi and Gottfredson, 1983). The delinquency literature also notes that age of first involvement in delinquency is an important indicator for more severe and frequent involvement in later year delinquency (Mannheim and Wilkins, 1955; Sellin, 1958; Wolfgang, Figlio and Sellin, 1972). Besides,

property offenses, which do not necessarily require confrontation with a victim, peak a few years before violence offenses (Hirschi and Gottfredson, 1983: 557). In addition, anti-social behaviors are stable for some people during the life and most crime are committed by 5-6% of all people (Farrington, Ohlin and Wilson, 1986).

On the other hand, studies have not paid similar attention to crime-gender relations as it is seen between crime and age. This situation is explained by Chesney-Lind (1989) as gender blindness (p. 6). The reason that research has not focused on gender is that social control mechanism, where patriarchal societies are strong, put more control and pressure over girls than boys (Brown et al, 1998). Another explanation for this ignorance is that boys are permitted to live more lenient life than girls (Hagan, 2003). The research has also indicated that girls commit less crime than boys (Tracy et al, 1985). Yet, some crimes such as curfew violation, running away from home are committed more often by girls than boys (Synder and Finnegan, 1987). In addition, structural problems are as significant factors for girls in committing crime as for boys. In other words, poverty, income inequality and joblessness are equally causing factors of crimes for both girls and boys (Steffensmeier and Haynie, 2000).

In addition to crime-age and crime-gender relation, crime has a close relation with the movement of people on social structure. With the developments in the area of technological and transportation, the population of cities in developed countries have increased dramatically (Sumner, 2004). The increase shown in population was a result of migrating from both rural areas and foreign countries (Weber, 2012). However, this technological developments have provided numerous opportunities to both law-abiding citizens and criminals (Bresler, 1993). The increase in population has resulted in high crime rates in big cities (Longmoor and Young, 1936). Besides, not only has population increase but also ethnic heterogeneity has yielded crime to increase (Warner and Pierce 1993). In addition, the research has also indicated that people who have fled to developed countries were found to have involved in crime extensively (Engbersen et al, 2006).

A brief overview about basic elements of crime has provided here. The primary objective of this study is to find out whether age, gender and ethnicity has important factor for internationally wanted criminals either. In order to carry out this study, a great amount of red notices that published by International Criminal Police Organization-INTERPOL had been studied. As it is known, red notice is issued by INTERPOL on a request of member country about a person to be searched and extradited to requesting country.

Methodology

INTERPOL has started publishing red notices on its official web site under certain circumstances. The objective here is to make internationally wanted persons known by civilians. It is also believed that these criminals will be caught by the police with the help of people.

In this study examined 410 red notices which were requested by ten countries. Two countries are selected from each continent to make comparisons. These countries are as follows: United States of America and Canada from America; Argentine and Brasil from South America; Russia and China from Asia; Nigeria and South Africa from Africa and Italy and Spain from European Continent. The main criterion for choosing these countries is the the number of red notices that they issued.

As far as it is known, there is no offense type restriction for issuing a red notice. Each country in this study had issued red notices for a broad range of offense type. Studying all types of crime with limited red notices would not give a clear picture; therefore, crime types in this study are gathered under four group. These crime types are as follows: financial, narcotic, sexual and crime against person.

In addition to crime category, internationally wanted offenders are also gathered under four group based on their ages. This age category is ranging from 18-28 to 51 years of age and older. These categories will be named in the following pages as first, second, third and fourth group.

In light of all these explanations, the following hypothesis were tested.

Hypo 1: The countries have issued more red notices for young offenders (age 18-28) than older offenders. A small number of offenders have committed multiple crimes. People commit different crimes in different age groups.

Hypo 2: A small percentage of red notices was issued for female offenders. However, female offenders have committed some crimes more often than others.

Hypo 3: The countries in this study have issued red notices on citizens and non-citizens for similar offenses.

Hypo 4: The countries have different offense priorities for issuing notices. In other words, the countries have preferred specific offense type to issue red notices.

Results

Before testing hypothesis, the number of offenders in various crime categories and the number of red notices issued by the countries are posted here to give an idea about the sample of this article. The first table below indicates crime categories and number of offenders. Crime against persons is

the leading offense type that countries have issued red notice most. Financial offense type comes after crime against persons. The least committed crime is sex offenses.

Table 1: Crime Categories and Number of Crime

Crime Categories	Number of Offenders	Percentage
Financial	124	30,2
Narcotic	102	24,9
Crime against persons	151	36,8
Sex Crime	33	8,0
Total	410	100,0

Another issue to mention here before testing hypothesis is to know how many red notices have been issued by countries. The table below indicates the number of red notices that have been issued for both citizens and non-citizens. Of the 410 red notices, 192 notices are issued for citizens and 218 are issued for non-citizens. As it is seen from the table, all the countries, except Russia and China, have issued more red notices for non-citizens than citizens.

Table 2: The Distribution of Red Notices Issued for Citizens and non-citizens.

Countries	Citizen	Foreign
America	19	52
Canada	14	15
Brasil	22	28
Argentine	21	29
Italy	7	40
Spain	2	9
Russia	51	11
China	41	4
Nigeria	5	18
South Africa	10	12
Total	192	218

The age distribution of crime of this study indicates that the percentage of red notices issued for youngest offenders (first group) is surprisingly small. The highest number of red notices have been issued for those between 29 and 39 years of age (second group). Besides, the number of notices is published by countries declines as people get older. Crime and age group distribution is shown below.

Table 3: Age Distribution of Crime

Age	Number of Crime	Percentage
18-28	17	4,1
29-39	141	34,4
40-50	131	32,0
51+	121	29,5
Toplam	410	100,0

In addition to the age distribution of crime, type of crime and age relation also plays a significant role in criminology. Literature reveals that serious crimes are committed more in later age when people get mature. The age and crime category crosstabulation table is shown below.

Table 4: Crosstabulation of Age and Offense Type

	18-28 (1st Group)	29-39 (2nd Group)	40-50 (3rd Group)	51+ (4th Group)	Total
Finance	4 %23,5	26 %18,4	42 %32,1	52 %43,0	124 %30,2
Narcotics	2 %11,8	37 %26,2	31 %23,7	32 %26,4	102 %24,9
Crime A. Persons	11 %64,7	70 %49,6	46 %35,1	24 %19,8	151 %36,8
Sexual Crimes	0 %0	8 %5,7	12 %9,2	13 %10,7	33 %8,0
Total	17 %100	141 %100	131 %100	121 %100	410 %100

This table shows that financial crimes are more committed by the people who are above 51 years of age or older. Since the youngest offenders have committed less crime, they are also less responsible group for financial crimes. Financial crimes seem to be less committed by second group on percentage basis. The earlier studies however indicates that young offenders are more likely to commit monetary crimes.

On the other hand, narcotic crimes are mainly committed by the second group who are between 29 and 39 years of age. But, the oldest age group also seems to be responsible for committing more narcotic crimes on percentage basis.

In addition, the second age group is also responsible for committing highest crime against persons. This type of crime is not expected to be committed by young offenders as mentioned in earlier studies.

The limited number of sexual offenses have been committed mostly by older people. But it is highly difficult to infer some conclusion relying on this outcome.

Table 4 gives an idea about type of committed crime and age difference. However, this table does not tell us whether there is a significant difference between crime type and age. To do this, ANOVA test was run.

Table 5: ANOVA Table

	Sum of Square	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	13,337	3	4,446	4,845	,003
Within Groups	372,568	406	,918		
Total	385,905	409			

In the table ANOVA, the variation (sum of squares), the degree of freedom (df), and the variance (Mean Square) are given for the within and

the between groups, as well as the F value (F) and the significance of the F (Sig.). As it is seen, there is much difference between the two Mean Squares (4,845 and 0,918) resulting in a significant difference ($F=4,845$; Sig. = 0,003). This means that there is significant difference between age groups and crime categories. The result is shown at table 5. In fact, this ANOVA table merely tells the significance level. It does not tell us among which groups do this significance exist. In order to get an answer, Tukey test was conducted.

Table 6: Tukey Test

	Mean Difference	Sig.
18-28 29-39	-,014	1,000
40-50	,198	,854
51+	,428	,311
29-39 18-28	,014	1,000
40-50	,212	,264
51+	,442	,001
40-50 18-28	-,198	,854
29-39	-,212	,264
51+	,230	,227
51+ 18-28	-,428	,311
29-39	-,442	,001
40-50	-,230	,227

Several comparisons are listed above in the Tukey test shown at table 6. In the sixth row, the comparison between second group (29-39) and fourth group (51 and above) is shown. The difference between the means of these two groups is 0,442. Following this row across, this difference is statistically significant ($p=0,001$). The same result is also seen in the eleventh row. The significant overall ANOVA is due to a difference between just two groups: second group and fourth group. There is no other significant difference among other comparisons. This difference simply tells us that people in the second group and the people in the fourth group have committed statistically significant different type of crimes.

Until here, the age distribution of crime and the age-offense type relation are examined. The last issue for the first hypothesis is to find out whether a small percentage of people is responsible for most of the offenses. The outcome table of this question is not posted here. The result shows that 65,9 percent offenders wanted on international level are responsible on one account. While 20 percent of the offenders are responsible for committing two crimes, only 15 percent have committed three or more crimes. This result clearly indicates that only a small group of people are involved in multiple crimes.

The next issue is to find out the relation between crime and gender. The distribution of crime and gender is shown at table 7. According to this

distribution, female offenders have committed obviously lesser offenses than males. Of the 410 published red notices, the female offenders are responsible for only 47 crimes that they were involved in.

Table 7: Crime and Gender Distribution

Crime	Male	Female
Financial	100 %27,5	24 %51,1
Narcotics	88 %24,2	14 %29,8
Crime against person	143 %39,4	8 %17,0
Sexual	32 %8,8	1 %2,1
Total	363 %100	47 %100

On the other hand, the above table also shows that females have committed financial crimes more than narcotic crimes and crime against persons. The gender distribution of crime also differs on selected offenses. For example, females have involved in mostly financial crimes; whereas, males have committed more crimes against persons. Besides, while narcotic crimes are second mostly committed offense by females; financial offenses are the second mostly committed crimes by males. Females have committed a few crime against persons, males have committed less narcotic crimes.

The table above gives us a picture of crime and gender. However, it does not tell us whether there is really a statistically significant difference between males and females. To do this, Independent Samples t Test is conducted.

Group Statistics table, which is not posted here, indicates that the mean score of male and female are consequently (2,29) and (1,70). This mean difference tells that there is significant difference between males and females. In order to find out whether this difference is random or real, Independent Samples Test is checked.

Table 8: Independent Samples Test

	t	F	df	Sig. (2 tailed)
Crime Equal Variances assumed	4,007	4,064	408	,000
Crime Unequal Variances	4,505		63,312	,000

The results given in the first row (t=4,007, df=408, p<0,05) assumes homogeneity of variance. The conclusion from the test is that there is strong evidence of a difference between males and females. This simply means that female offenders have committed statistically significant different crimes than male offenders.

Final note for hypothesis two is that red notices issued for females by South America were mainly about narcotic crimes. All red notices issued on females by Asian continent were about financial offences. There is no red notice differences issued on females by other three continents.

The next concern of this article is to find out whether there is any difference in issuance of red notices for citizen and non citizens. To do this, Crosstabulation Test was run. This test result is shown below.

Table 9: Crosstabulation of Crime and Citizen, non-citizen table

Crime Category	Yes	No
Financial	72	52
Narcotics	26	76
Crime Aga. Persons	79	72
Sexual	15	18

The crosstabulation test indicates that financial offenses were committed mostly by citizens. On the other hand, narcotic crimes were committed mostly by non-citizens. Besides, there is no significant difference for sexual and crime against persons between citizens and non-citizens. This table simply gives us the distribution of crimes committed by citizens and non-citizens. For further clarification of this issue, Independent Samples t Test was conducted.

Table 10: Group Statistics

Nationality	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Crime Yes	192	2,19	1,033	,075
No	218	2,26	,915	,062

Group Statistics table shows that the mean score of citizens and non-citizens are consequently (2,19) and (2,26). This small mean difference tells us that there is no significant difference between them.

The Independent Samples Test also points this insignificance. The results (Table 10) given in the first row ($t=-0,667$, $df=408$, $p<0,05$) assumes not homogeneity of variance. The conclusion from the test is that there is no evidence of a difference between citizens and non-citizens. This simply means that citizens and non-citizens have not committed statistically significant offenses.

Table 11: Independent Sample Test

	t	F	df	Sig (2 tailed)
Crime Equal variances	-,667	14,478	408	,505
Assumed Equal variances not assumed	-,662		384,495	,508

ANOVA test was conducted in order to find out whether countries have issued red notices for different type of crimes. The outcome of ANOVA table is shown below.

Table 12: Anova Table

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	46,775	9	5,197	6,130	,000
Within Groups	339,129	400	,848		
Total	385,905	409			

In the table ANOVA, the variation (sum of squares), the degree of freedom (df), and the variance (Mean Square) are given for the within and the between groups, as well as the F value (F) and the significance of the F (Sig.). As it is seen, there is much difference between the two Mean Squares (5,197 and 0,848) resulting in a significant difference (F=6,130; Sig. = 0,000). This means that there is significant difference on red notices that the countries have issued.

As it is mentioned above, this test does not tell us among which countries do this significance exist. For this, Tukey test was run. The outcome table of this test is not shown here, but the result shows that only China have issued red notices for different crime than any other country studied in this article. There is no statistically significant difference on red notices that other countries have issued.

The last issue of this article is to examine for what crimes have Continents issued most. The result indicates that American Continent has issued almost equal number of red notices for each crime. South America and Europe Continents have issued notices mainly on narcotic crimes and crime against persons. On the other hand, Asian and Africa Continents have issued red notices for financial crimes and crime against persons.

In addition to this, all continents have issued red notices mostly for people of their own continents except America. American Continent has issued red notices for people from all around the World. South America has not issued even a single notice for people from American Continent. Not only South America, but also Europe, Asia and African Continents have not issued a single red notice for American citizens either. The continent of Asia has issued red notices for only its own people. The continent of Africa has also issued red notices for the people of Europe and Asia.

Discussion

This article has revealed not only the crimes that different countries have issued red notices for but also the relation between crime and age, crime and gender and crime and citizen-non citizen. The primary objective of doing this is to make comparison with earlier studies. Although this study was conducted with limited number of red notices, the result indicates some similarities with earlier studies. The author of this article thinks that this study is unique of its kind because there is no known empirical study

conducted using red notices. Therefore, it is believed that this article will add important contribution to literature.

The tenet of age and crime relation tells that crimes peak during the period of passing from adolescence to adulthood. However, this study indicated that people in the second group, which is not in parallel with earlier studies, have been involved more in criminal behaviours than other age groups. Perhaps, the primary reason for this result is that countries do not issue red notices for young offenders. The author of this article is also not aware whether INTERPOL permits to publish red notices for adolescence. Aside from this issue, in this study was found that a small amount of people are really responsible for more than three crimes, and people in different age groups have committed different type of crimes. On the other hand, the reason that younger people have not involved in financial crimes is that this crime requires more experience and knowledge than other skills. Therefore, it is conceivable to say that the first hypothesis is partly supported.

The female offenders have noticeably involved in less criminal behavior as it was mentioned in earlier studies. However, the result also shows that there is statistically significant crime difference between male and female offenders. It is also concluded that the second hypothesis is fully supported.

The third hypothesis is not supported here because countries have issued red notices for similar offenses for both citizens and non-citizens. The last hypothesis is also supported because countries have issued red notices for different offense type.

The author is not claiming that this brief article gives a clear picture about crime on international level. But this brief article can be a clue for acknowledging what crimes are committed most in different countries. It should be kept in mind that the red notices are issued primarily for those who escaped from a country where he or she had committed crime.

This study has also revealed that European Countries are not willing to publish internationally wanted people on the official web site of INTERPOL. The author believes that the European Countries pay more attention on their regional search warrants which is believed to be more powerful tool than red notice in dealing with criminals.

The author has encountered some problems in writing this article. The initial problem is that INTERPOL is publishing only a short version of red notice on web site. This short notice does not cover every information that might be helpful in the study. Another problem is that INTERPOL has published less than two hundred red notices for each requesting countries. It is believed that countries are requesting from INTERPOL a large number of red notices for each year. The real number for each country should be around

at least thousands. There is no doubt that studying with limited number of samples does not make results objective.

References:

- Bresler, Fenton (1993), *İnterpol*, Milliyet Yayınları, ss. 1-431.
- Brown, E Stephen; Finn-Aege Esbensen and Gilbert, Geis (1998), *Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context*. Third Edition, Cincinnati, OH: Anderson Publishing.
- Chesney-Lind, Meda (1989), "Girls' Crime and Woman's Place: Toward a Feminist Model of Female Delinquency", *Crime and Delinquency*, 35 (1), ss.5-29.
- Engbersen, Godfried, Joanne van der Leun and Jan de Boom (2006), "The Fragmentation of Migration and Crime in the Netherlands", Electronic copy available at: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1140125>
- Farrington, David; Ohlin, L. and Wilson, J. Q (1986), *Understanding and Controlling Crime*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
- Friday, C. Paul and Jerald Hage (1976), "Youth Crime in Postindustrial Societies: An Integrated Perspective", *Criminology* 14:347-68.
- Glaser, Daniel (1978), *Crime in Our Changing Society*. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
- Greenberg, F. David (1977), "Delinquency and the Age Structure of Society." *Contemporary Crises* 1, ss.189-224.
- Greenberg, F. David (1979), "Delinquency and the Age Structure of Society", in *Criminology Review Yearbook*, edited by Sheldon L. Messinger and Egon Bittner, Beverly Hills, California: Sage.
- Hagan, John (2003), "A Power-Control Theory of Gender and Delinquency." In Francis T. Cullen and Robert Agnew, *Criminological Theory: Past to Present-Essential Readings*, pp.253-261.
- Hirschi, Travis and Gottfredson, Michael (1983), "Age and the Explanation of Crime", *The American Journal of Sociology*, 89 (3), ss. 552-584.
- Longmoor, S. Elsa and Young, F. Erle (1936), "Ecological Interrelationships of Juvenile Delinquency, Dependency, and Population Mobility: A Cartographic Analysis of Data from Long Beach, California", *The American Journal of Sociology*, 41 (5), ss. 598-610.
- Matza, David (1964), *Delinquency and Drift*, New York: Wiley.
- Mannheim, Hermann, and Leslie T. Wilkins (1955), *Prediction Methods in Relation to Borstal Training*. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
- Sellin, Thorsten (1958), "Recidivism and Maturation." *National Probation and Parole Association Journal* 4:241-50.
- Snyder, N. Howard, and Terrence A. Finnegan (1987), *Delinquency in the United States*. Washington, DC: Department of Justice.

Steffensmeier, Darrell and Haynie, Dana (2000), “Gender, Structural Disadvantage and Urban Crime: Do Macrosocial Variables Also Explain Female Offending Rates?”, *Criminology*, 38(2), ss.403-438.

Sumner, Colin (2004), “The Social Nature of Crime and Deviance” in Colin Sumner (Ed.), *The Blackwell Companion to Criminology*. Madlen, MA: Blackwell Publishing, pp3-31.

Tracy, E Paul; Marvin, E. Wolfgang and Robert M. Figlio (1985), *Delinquency in Two Birth Cohorts: Executive Summary*. Washington, DC: Department of Justice.

Trasler, Gordon (1980), “Aspects of Causality, Culture and Crime”, Paper presented at the 4th International Seminar at the International Centre of Sociological, Penal and Penitentiary Research and Studies, Messina, Sicily.

Warner, D. Barbara and Pierce, L. Glenn (1993), “Reexamining Social Disorganization Theory Using Calls to the Police As a Measure of Crime”, *Criminology*, 31 (4), pp. 493-517.

Weber, Max (2012), *Şehir, Yarın Yayınları*, ss.1-317.

Wolfgang, Marvin; Robert Figlio and Thorsten Sellin (1972), “Delinquency in a Birth Cohort. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.