



**CRISMART**

# Intelligence-led policing against organized crime – a case study

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# Contribution

- The paper will provide a contribution to criminology research by doing a case study of one example of how the Swedish police deal with organized crime; complementing the more common macro/statistical methods within criminology.
- This will be done by examining the ideas of intelligence-led policing with a real case – the attempted armed robbery of a cash depot in northern Sweden, and the following fire fight.

# Case study, preparing a robbery



- Intelligence operations against suspected criminals made the police take a threat of an armed robbery seriously late 2008. Intensified surveillance in April and May 2009
- Pictures from surveillance operation May 2009 (National Criminal Police )

# Case study, robbery of cash depot



- Attempted armed robbery against a Loomis cash depot in Umeå, northern part of Sweden, May 24, 2009. The cash depot was kept under surveillance by the Swedish National Counter Terrorism Unit.
- (Pictures from the robbers blowing up a door at the cash depot; and a robber with an assault rifle. National Criminal Police (2010))

# Case study, robbery of cash depot



- The police moves in and a fire fight begins (Västerbottens-Kuriren, 2009)

# Case study, aftermath

- Fire fight between robbers and the Swedish National Counter Terrorism Unit, during which the police fired ~80 rounds and the robbers ~35 rounds, left one robber critically wounded and a police dog dead
- This makes the event one of the most violent encounters between the police and criminals in Sweden (see Knutsson 2005)
- Four men sentenced for attempt to armed robbery to imprisonment in 5 years, 4 months to 6 years and 9 months

# Case study examples, critical challenges

- Should the intelligence be taken seriously?
  - There are a lot of information, intelligence or rumors concerning people that are planning "to do something" (i.e. rob a bank), but far from every rumor is true. If the police initiates an operation against organized criminals, it will take a lot of resources.
- When should the police intervene?
  - Intelligence work vs. judicial questions – it has to work in court; (from the police's/prosecutor's view): the longer sentences, the better. An early intervention might not result in evidence strong enough, while intervention at a later stage might be more dangerous.

# Case study examples, police methods

- Shortlist of police methods used by the police in the operation against the cash depot robbery
  - Surveillance of suspects
  - Eavesdropping on cell phones
  - Use of specialized personnel (National Counter Terrorism Unit) to confront the suspects
  - Huge investigation, carried out by specialized personnel (Detectives at the national level, specialized in serious crime)
  - Technical crime scene investigation
  - Analysis of cell phones – positions, connections
  - Interrogation of suspects, witnesses, police officers
  - Other methods? How was the police informed from the start; informed in such a way that they launched a large-scale operation?



# Summary

- Is there a conflict of value between intelligence-led police work (sometimes based on vague information); and the judicial system's demand on firm proof?
  - Intelligence information will only guide you to a certain extent – there will be uncertainties, uncertainties that might be critical
  - There are lots of theories about police methods, and there are lots of theories about organized crime...
  - But: Where are the theories about intelligence-led police methods against organized crime?
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# Sources

- George and Bennet (2005) Case studies and theory development in the social sciences
- Knutsson (ed, 2005) Politiets bruk av skyteväpnen i Norden. (Police use of firearms in the Nordic countries)
- District Court of Stockholm (May 31, 2010) Verdict in B 8231-09
- National Criminal Police (2010) Police investigation concerning the robbery attempt against Loomis, Umeå May 2009.

# Definitions of organized crime

- The armed robbery in the case study = organized crime?
  - Ad hoc networks with a certain degree of specialization
  - Long sentences (in a Swedish context)
- Annual European Union Organised Crime Situation Report (6204/1/97 (ENFOPOL 35 REV 2) DG H II) – at least six, including 1, 3, 5, 11.
  - 1. Collaboration of more than 2 people;
  - 2. Each with own appointed tasks;
  - 3. For a prolonged or indefinite period of time (refers to the stability and (potential) durability);
  - 4. Using some form of discipline and control;
  - 5. Suspected of the commission of serious criminal offences;
  - 6. Operating at an international level;
  - 7. Using violence or other means suitable for intimidation;
  - 8. Using commercial or businesslike structures;
  - 9. Engaged in money laundering;
  - 10. Exerting influence on politics, the media, public administration, judicial authorities or the economy;
  - 11. Determined by the pursuit of profit and/or power.

# Case study

- The usefulness of case studies (see George and Bennet 2005):
  - Conceptual validity
  - Driving new hypothesis
  - Exploring casual mechanisms
  - Assessing casual relations
- This case study contributes to criminological research – often macro perspective, often statistics – in the form of an examination of the uncertainties, and the potential value conflicts in intelligence-led policing