Police Reforms in Latin American

New strategies on crime prevention in Colombia, Chile and Peru

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1. Latin American Police Forces
2. Police Reforms in Latin American
3. Reforms in police crime prevention in Colombia, Chile and Peru
1. Latin American Police Forces
Great diversity

- In unitary states
  - National police forces
    - Andean Region, except Venezuela
    - Central America, except Costa Rica
  - Chile: two national police forces
  - Venezuela and Costa Rica: various forces
- In federal states
  - Federal, states and municipal forces.
- Common military origen
Challenges

- Demilitarization- Professionalization- Civilian control
- Modern management and transparency-
  Decentralization- Performance assessment
- Control over corruption and abuse
- Management and analysis of crime data
- Criminal investigation
- Partnership with community and inter institutional responses to crime
- Police welfare and working conditions
2. Police Reforms in Latin American
• 1992-1993 to the present
• Reforms started with the end of civil wars in Central America and military dictatorships in South America.
Developments that encourage reforms

- Democratization
- Rise in violence and crime
- Washington consensus: state reforms
- Globalization
Developments that hinder reforms

- Political weaknesses
- Law and order policies
- Police conservatism and resistance to change
- Lack of reforms in the military and the administration of justice system
Types of police reforms

- Comprehensive reforms of the security sector or the administration of justice system, or police reforms only
- Creation of new services or reform of the existing ones
  - Partial or comprehensive
  - Administrative or operational
- Leadership: political or institutional
Reforms in police crime prevention

- Development of modern techniques to gather, organize and analyse crime data and identify risk factors (drugs, alcohol, weapons)
- Community prevention: neighborhood watches
- Community policing
- Comprehensive crime prevention
3. Reforms in police crime prevention in Colombia, Chile and Peru
<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Colombia</th>
<th>Chile</th>
<th>Peru</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Crime information and analysis/risk factors</strong></td>
<td>• Compstat • Local observatories</td>
<td>• Information system at the Ministry of the Interior</td>
<td>• Local observatories</td>
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<td><strong>Community prevention</strong></td>
<td>• Neighborhood watches</td>
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<td><strong>Community policing</strong></td>
<td>• 1,000/17,000 in Bogotá</td>
<td>• Plan Cuadrante • Community oriented policing and problems solving</td>
<td>• Isolated pilot projects</td>
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<td><strong>Comprehensive crime prevention</strong></td>
<td>• Public order committees • Fund</td>
<td>• Comuna Segura • Fund</td>
<td>• Citizen security committees</td>
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Lessons learned - Crime information and analysis

- Advantages of local observatories
  - Allow to focus intervention territorially
  - Handle information outside the police
  - Handle diverse sources of information
  - Provide time and resources to analyse information and identify risk factors
  - Receive information from the public
Lessons learned - Community prevention

- Local communities support is key
  - To identify security problems
  - To prevent them
  - Can help solve them
  - Can contribute supervising police services

- Challenges
  - Make participation sustainable
  - Danger to over burden the public
Lessons learned - Community policing

• Effects
  - Improvement in police confidence
  - Improvement in security perception
  - Can also improve security

• Requirements
  - Lots of manpower and police resources
  - New police training
  - Defeat resistance to delegation of power to police officers in the streets
Lessons learned - Comprehensive crime prevention

- Multisectoral coordination is key:
  - Prevention, control, rehabilitation and attention to victims

- Requirements
  - Financial resources and technical assistance from central government
  - National institutions like the police should adapt to local approach

- Challenges
  - How large should local units be?
  - How should local prevention contribute to efforts against organized crime?
  - How to engage communities closely linked to crime?
¡Thank you!

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