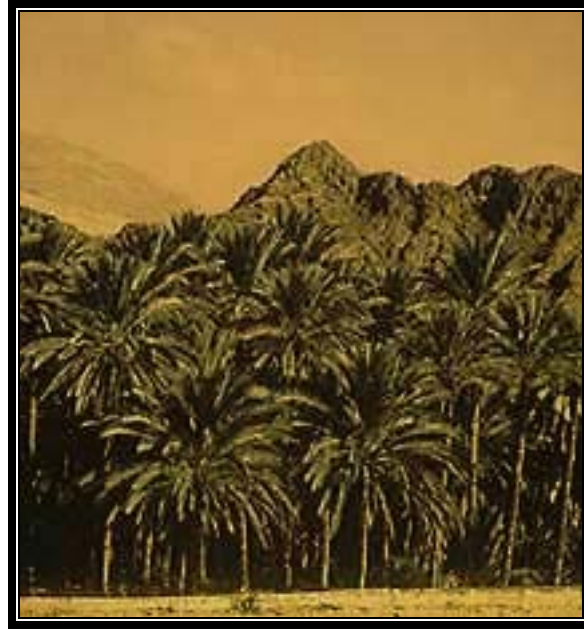


Shifting the Sands of Violence

An Integrated Systems Template



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Introduction

Violence in the heart of any country impacts the lives of its citizens systemically. And whether your nation's infiltration issues relate to drugs, gangs, organized crime, or terrorist networks, one thing is clear. Systemic problems need systemic solutions.

Creative integration of available networks (economic, community, education, family, parks, media, etc.) in partnership with citizens, puts a nation on the cutting edge of crime prevention, economic stability and peace.

This template promotes the national unity necessary for success through the innovative partnering of systems already in place for many countries. It also addresses the monetary and cultural tension factors driving these types of crimes. Ignoring the financial motivation components of these issues is a mistake no nation can afford to make. Additionally, international tensions haven't a hope of dissipating / healing until we begin to understand each other at the most fundamental level.

While certain threads may have been attempted previously in and of themselves, this template adds an extra layer of integration to further ensure success. Strong use of the park and education systems, in cooperation with neighborhood associations goes the extra distance necessary to address issues of tolerance, economics, prevention, empowerment and enforcement. Policing networks are obviously in place as the first level of response. This template is designed to overlay and integrate with police and security response systems to provide long term solutions.

A brief overview follows, in the form of a systems matrix and three-phase action plan.

<i>Integrated Systems Matrix</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Enforcement</i>	<i>Empowerment</i>	<i>Economics</i>	<i>Prevention</i>	<i>Tolerance</i>
<i>National Benefits</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Data collection system for statistical analysis. *Opportunity network for small businesses provides economic stimulus & alternative life paths for at-risk individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Streamlined response system. *National clearinghouse for reporting. *Ongoing use of current policing systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Systemic response & prevention programs at citizen level reduce burden on government orgs. *Allows countries to maintain control over these crime networks & impact them economically through cutting of distribution lines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Park/Garden, education & community association networks already in place for most countries. *Built in economic stimulus package. (Those nations already using the micro-credit program will find this especially helpful.) *Tourism dev't built in to crime prevention system. *Cost- effective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Tolerance education addresses not only acceptance of other world cultures, but also how your country is perceived around the world. (http://www.thelessonmachine.com) *Integrated financial opportunity network provides life-path alternatives for individuals at risk of weaving a life of violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Reduces intercultural / racial tensions relating to crime. *Builds trust down to citizen level, promoting national unity.
<i>Community Association Network</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Establishment of community resources/leaders. *Economic stimulus at neighborhood levels assists in preventing the choice of violence at its source. *Positive change in community atmosphere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Community service requirement for offenders. *Announcement of offenses through media. *Neighborhood reporting chain in cooperation with nat'l clearinghouse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Local citizens & social action groups assure leadership. *When you strengthen a community, you make it a more difficult target for infiltration. (A strong community is a prepared community.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Built in labor force through community service requirements. (Prison crews, troubled youth programs) *Promotes economic stability through active neighborhood associations & parks system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Target hardening through neighborhood beautification and active use of parks, gardens, heritage sites, etc. *Workshop / counseling programs available through the community. *Lending library of coping & prevention materials. *Resource centers with tolerance education materials available. (http://www.thelessonmachine.com) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Promotes trust & unity through community interaction. *Associations can sponsor heritage festivals, intercultural poetry / theater festivals, concerts, etc. with parks network. (Ex. poetry readings in neighborhood parks.)
<i>Parks/Gardens & Heritage Sites</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Increased use of public parks / gardens / heritage sites. *Promotion of large public events. (heritage festivals, outdoor plays / poetry readings, craft fairs, concerts, outdoor education classes, business workshops, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Staff & citizens provide another layer of reporting / information gathering. *Use of organic component provides natural enthusiasm for program at national & local levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Community use of these public sites increases their status as a nat'l resource network. *Smaller businesses who lack the resources for more expensive venues can promote their business at national level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Outdoor venues mean lower facility dev. costs & long term overhead/ maintenance. *Active use of parks promotes businesses such as coffee kiosks, sundry sales, sandwich sales, etc. *Fees for sales permits provide revenue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Community resource centers located within or next to parks increases facility use. *Greater park/garden use increases citizen traffic & awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *People around the world enjoy the natural world. This establishes feeling of tolerance & acceptance, regardless of language, culture or religion.
<i>Education</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Increased citizen involvement. *New program dev't. *More tolerant citizens and next generation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Informed citizens are more aware & willing to utilize streamlined response system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Empowers children as ambassadors, leaders & entrepreneurs. Uses their natural enthusiasm to catapult tolerance exponentially through the family system. (http://www.thelessonmachine.com) *Business education workshops via community centers allow individuals to create their own future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Tolerance education reduces fear, keeps people from fleeing neighborhoods suffering from infiltration. Promotes economic stability. *This relates also to fear management having a stabilizing impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Exposure to other cultures reduces opportunity for citizen manipulations through fear. (http://www.thelessonmachine.com) *Awareness/prevention programs via community resource centers & education systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Int'l tensions will never be completely addressed until we begin to understand each other. *TheLessonMachine.Com sponsors tolerance education with philosophy that all cultures & belief systems should be honored / explored.

<i>Action Plan</i>	<i>Nation - State</i>	<i>Community Assoc. Network</i>	<i>Parks / Gardens & Heritage Sites</i>	<i>Education</i>
Phase One:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Establish a national clearinghouse for information flow / multi-source reporting. *Provide support for development of neighborhood association network and template for their operation. (If one does not already exist within the country.) *Consider park enhancement / neighborhood beautification funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Indiv. community & neighborhoods begin to form associations. (Going with town councils may be enough for smaller, rural communities.) *Coordinate with current local parks. Begin developing park-like areas if none exist. *Begin initial planning for community resource centers if they do not already exist. Many Middle East countries already have a network of mosques which also serve as community gathering places. This may help reduce costs nationally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Coordinate with current or newly formed community associations & begin working in partnership. *Dev. after school programs and school vacation programs. One example: http://www.communitysteppingstones.com/peace.htm *Begin promoting parks / gardens / national heritage sites as venues for concerts, art shows, festivals, etc. *If not already in place, establish a reasonable, affordable permit / fee structure for event schedules, supporting vendors, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Consider tolerance / multicultural resources for school systems & after – school tutoring programs via community resource centers. (http://www.thelessonmachine.com) *Establish lending library (or work with existing library systems to lend to community resource centers) for multicultural literature, awareness materials on crime prevention & community healing materials / lectures.
Phase Two:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Begin meeting or phone conferencing with neighborhood association leaders in order to “jump start” the process. *Begin collecting data from reporting network, & information about community-sponsored events. *Publish events via clearinghouse / information ministry / media to help support the process of strengthening of each community against infiltration of crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Begin scheduling meetings / community gatherings 1-2 times per month, minimum. *Encourage citizens to report suspicious activity or verified crime through network. *Submit / Post information regarding community events. Utilize media to increase citizen attendance / involvement. (Revenue tips: including an email list is cost effective & the local businesses may want to advertise in community bulletins.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Continue to work closely with neighborhood assoc. network & schools to promote events & ongoing programs. *Consider kiosks & armadas as more than picnic spots, but rather alternative uses such as places for yoga & art classes, fitness trails, etc. *Consider community gardens as a revenue source (growing herbs for local restaurants, having weekly produce sales, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Make materials regarding your own nation or culture available to potential tourists / visitors. (Ex. Kuwait heritage module at http://www.thelessonmachine.com) *Work closely with neighborhood associations & community parks / gardens for maximum impact. (Ex. use of materials such as http://www.thelessonmachine.com read aloud plays for students in the park, after school programs, etc.)
Phase Three:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Consider financing entity for micro-credits / micro-loans if your country is unable to provide them as grants or small business loans. The interest from repayment of these loans will help assure a perpetual funding source requiring no new government capital or additional foreign aid. *Continue with information distribution regarding community events & data collection for assessment & long-range planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Continue to work strongly with education & park systems, as well as nat'l info network. *Continue monthly meetings & periodic assessments. *Work with prison release crews / community service enforcement entities for maintenance & expansion assistance. *Develop landlord communication network / email discussion group to track tenants with a history of bringing crime into a neighborhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Consider use of assessments & facility expansion as appropriate. *Ongoing cooperation with information clearinghouse / distribution network, neighborhood associations & schools. *Consider partnering with parks / gardens in other countries for marketing / networking purposes. *Use of specific programs appropriate to your situation, such as teen questing, young entrepreneur programs, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Partner with other schools & programs around the world to increase cross-cultural understanding. *Continue with business education to support opportunity network for new entrepreneurs.