

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

An Organized crime is criminal activities organized and coordinated on a national scale, often with international connections.¹ Firmly rooted in the social structure, it is protected by corrupt politicians and law enforcement officers, and legal advice; it profits from such activities as gambling or gaming, betting of money or valuables on. Organized crime is not limited to Western country. The Japan has the very public and active *Yakuza* and *Boryokudan*.

Such associations engage in offenses such as cargo theft, fraud, robbery, kidnapping for ransom and the demanding of “protection” payments. Their principal source of income derives from the supply of illegal goods and services for which there is continuous public demand, such as drugs, prostitution, “loan-sharking” (the lending of money at extremely high interest rates), and gambling. They are characterized by a hierarchy of ranks with assigned responsibilities; the coordination of activities among subgroups; the division of geographic territory among different associations; a commitment to total secrecy; efforts to corrupt law-enforcement authorities; and the use of extreme violence, including murder, against rival associations, informers, and other enemies. International rings of smugglers, jewel thieves, and drug traffickers have existed throughout

¹ <http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/organized+crime>

Europe and Asia, and Sicily and Japan have centuries-old criminal organizations.²

A. Background

The *yakuza* can trace its origins back to as early as 1612, when people known as *kabuki-mono* ("crazy ones"), began to attract the attention of local officials. Their odd clothing and haircuts and behavior, along with carrying long swords at their sides, made them quite noticeable. *Kabuki-mono* made a habit of antagonizing and terrorizing anyone at their leisure, even to the point of cutting one down just for sheer pleasure. But from its original history some source said that *Yakuza* come from the *machii-yakko*. *Machii-yakko* is a group which created to protect the village from *kabuki-mono*, *machi-yakko* members are come from ordinary people such as merchant, government employer, labor, etc.

The problem become more complicated the *machii-yakko* is supposed to protect the village turned into hoodlums, this problem appear because the *machii-yakko* job to annihilate the *kabuki-mono* was effective and time by time the *kabuki-mono* leave the village and *machii-yakko* become jobless and start looting the village. The problem becomes worst because *Shogun* involvement to maintain the *machii-yakko*.

² Encyclopedia free dictionary
<http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/Criminal+organization> accessed at 25-9-2009, 13.30 wib

The Meiji Restoration, starting in 1867, gave Japan a rebirth and its first of many transformations into an industrial nation. Political parties and a parliament were created, as well as a powerful military. The *yakuza* also began to modernize, keeping in pace with a rapidly changing Japan. They recruited members from construction jobs and dock workings. They even began to control the rickshaw business. Gambling, however, had to be even more covert, as police were cracking down on *bakuto* gangs. The *tekiya*, unlike the *bakuto*, thrived and expanded, as their activities were not illegal, at least not on the surface.

Much of the current activities of the *yakuza* can be understood in the light of their feudal origin. First, they are not a secret society like their counterparts of the Italian mafia and Chinese triads. *Yakuza* organizations often have an office with a wooden board on the front door, openly displaying their group name or emblem.

Recently, the majority of *yakuza* income came from protection rackets in shopping, entertainment and red-light districts within their territory. This is mainly due to the reluctance of such businesses to seek help from the police. The Japanese police are also reluctant to interfere in internal matters in recognized communities such as shopping arcades, schools/universities, night districts and so on.³ *Yakuza* are heavily involved in sex-related industries and they also control large prostitution rings throughout the country. For example,

³ *Yakuza* from blogger <http://www.yakuza-mafia.blogspot.com> accessed in 22-02-2009, 21.46

in China, where the law restricts the number of children per household and the cultural preference is for boys, the *yakuza* can buy unwanted girls for as little as \$5,000 and put them to work in the *mizu shōbai*, which means 'water trade' and refers to the night entertainment business, in *yakuza*-controlled bars, nightclubs and restaurants. Their businesses also consist of drug, illegal immigrant even arms smuggling and this activity is also found in several countries such as Korea, Thailand, and several in Europe and America continent.

Yakuza also have ties to the Japanese realty market and banking, through *Jiageya*. *Jiageya* specialize in inducing holders of small real estate to sell their property so that estate companies can carry out much larger development plan. The bubble economy of 80's are often blamed on real estate speculation by banking subsidiaries. After the collapse of Japanese property bubble, a manager of a major bank in Nagoya was assassinated, and much speculation ensued about the banking industry's indirect connection to the Japanese underworld.

After getting involved in many illegal economic actions in several countries, *Yakuza* also has interfered in Japan political movement right from the beginning. The *gurentai* (*hoodlums*) began to form during the occupation of America, as there was a power vacuum in the government, as the occupation swept away the topmost layer of control in government and business. The *gurentai* could be seen upon as Japan's version of the Mob, its leader similar to what Al Capone was to the Mob. They dealt in black marketing, for the most part, but also they went so far as to use threat, extortion and violence in their

activities. Their members were the unemployed and the repatriated. The government used one *gurentai* as a controller of Korean labor, even though he was apprehended with criminal items.⁴

Also, as Japan began to industrialize and the urban movement really got underway, a third group of *yakuza* called *gurentai* began to emerge (though the name *gurentai* was not given until after WWII). Whether they fall into the traditional definition of *yakuza* is still open to debate, but they certainly gave birth to another kind of *yakuza*, the *boryokudan* (violence group). In short, a *gurentai* is a gang in a much more traditional sense, a group of young unruly thugs who peddle their violence for profit. They often engage in suppressing worker's organizations in factories and such activities brought them much closer to the conservative elements of Japanese power structure. During the militarization of Japan, some of them became the militant wing of Japanese politics known as *uyoku* (right wing) or ultra-nationalists.

Unlike more traditional *yakuza*, *uyoku* did not own turf; they peddled their violence for political gain. The most famous group before WWII was the *Kokuryu-kai* (Black Dragon Society). *Kokuryu-kai* was a secret ultra-nationalist umbrella organization whose membership was comprised of government officials and military officers as well as many martial artists and members of the Japanese underworld who engaged in political terrorism and assassination. They also provided espionage services for the Japanese colonial government.

⁴ *Yakuza* past and present <http://www.tomcoyner.com/yakuza.html> accessed in 22-02-2009, 21.46

Kokuryu-kai engaged in contraband operations including the Chinese opium trade, as well as prostitution and gambling overseas which provided them with funds as well as information.

The *yakuza* began to dabble in politics, taking sides with certain politicians and officials. They cooperated with the government so they could get official sanction or at least some freedom from harassment.

The government did find a use for the *yakuza* as aid to ultranationalists, who took a militaristic role in Japan's adaption into democracy. Various secret societies were created and trained militarily, trained in languages, assassination, blackmail, etc. The ultranationalist reign of terror lasted into the 1930's, consisting of several *coups d'etat*, the assassination of two prime ministers and two finance ministers, and repeated attacks on politicians and industrialists. The *yakuza* provided muscle and men to the cause and participated in "land development" programs in occupied Manchuria or China.

Things changed, however, when Pearl Harbor was bombed. The government no longer needed the ultranationalists or the *yakuza*. Members of these groups worked with the government, put on a uniform, or were put into jail.

Another involvement of *yakuza* in Japan government is go back to the late 19th century when they did strong arm work for local conservative politicians, controlled labor unrest, and served as spies and assassins for the

Government, going so far as to murder the Queen of Korea in an incident that triggered off a war with that country in 1895.⁵

Yakuza, also known as *gokudō* are members of traditional organized crime groups in Japan. *Yakuza* as the biggest international crime syndicate has been involve in Japan and world from the beginning they arose.

There have been numerous Koreans in the crime organization and been connected with Japan *Yakuza*. Kim Dae Jung, the South Korean President, was touring to speak out for human rights and democracy for Korea throughout the United States and Japan. Along the way, an attack took place that resulted in three deaths and a serious hip injury for Kim. It is alleged that this was an act of revenge for Kim challenging Park Chung Hee in a 1971 presidential election that was later found to be highly manipulated. It was later discovered that the KCIA, or Korean Central Intelligence Agency, was at fault for the assault. The KCIA basically was known to act to prevent any opposition to the authoritarian rule of Park. Later on, Kim heard from some friends that Korean *yakuza* members were out to hurt him. The *yakuza* had strong connections to Mindan, the South Korean Resident's Association, and with the KCIA. KCIA officials then kidnapped Kim while in Japan. There has not been any information released about exactly how the *yakuza* were involved, if it is even known, because of the possibility of disclosure causing too many problems. Hisayuki Machii, who is believed to be the most powerful Korean *yakuza* in Japan, was

⁵ Why Does the Emperor Need the *Yakuza*?
Prolegomenon to a Marxist Theory of the Japanese State, By Bertell Ollman

under the most suspicion. It turned out that he was likely mainly responsible for the kidnapping of Kim Dae Jung⁶.

Nevertheless, there are signs that the *yakuza's* influence is diminishing. Japanese citizens are fighting back, banishing *yakuza* social clubs from their neighborhoods. For example, the Ichiri Ikka gang led by *oyabun* Tetsuya Aono set up shop in the Ebisuka neighborhood of the town of Hamamatsu, 130 miles southwest of Tokyo. The gangsters' headquarters was a green-painted building that the outraged locals renamed *burakku biru* (the black building). The residents videotaped everyone who went in and out of the building and presented the tapes to the police. The gangsters were naturally upset with this degree of disrespect, and in retaliation they stabbed the town's lawyer, slashed the throat of a town activist, and trashed a local garage. But the people of Ebisuka persisted, and in an out-of-court settlement the *yakuza* agreed to leave, not wanting to create negative publicity and set a bad precedent for other anti-*yakuza* activists in Japan.

B. RESEARCH QUESTION

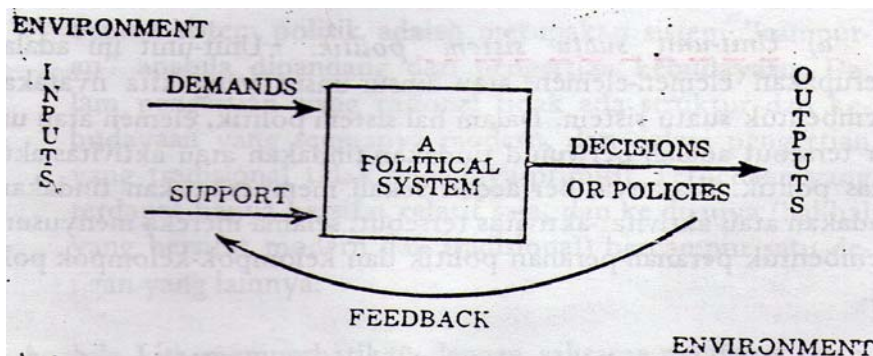
According to the problems state in the background, this research is going to answer the question on: *How Japan government response toward Yakuza activities in Japan and East Asia especially in Korea and China?*

⁶ Kaplan, David E. and Dubro, Alec (2003), "*East Asia: The Yakuza Expand*," University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, California University of California Press, Ltd. London, England p.189.

C. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

The writer used problem formulation to analyze the data. From David Easton concept of political system in simple terms, Easton's behavioral approach to politics, proposed that a political system could be seen as a delimited (all political system have precise boundaries) and fluid (changing) system of steps in decision making.

David Easton concept



Simplifying his model; Step 1, in a political system there will be "demands" for a certain "output" (a policy), and people or groups supporting those demands. Step 2, these demands and groups would compete ("be processed in the system"), giving way to decision making itself. Step 3, once the decision is made (certain policy), it will interact with its environment. Step 4,

⁷ Easton, David, "A Frame Work for Political Analysis", Prentice-Hall, Inc, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1965

once the new policy interacts with its environment, it will generate new demands and groups in support or against the said policy ("feedback")⁸.

The Inputs come from Japan society which demand for act and the demand support by NPA, Japan National Public Safety Commission, and also several activists in Japan who disapproved with *Yakuza* activities and that demand have been converted by government and made the output which is "Act for Prevention of Unlawful Activities by Criminal Gang Members" in 1992. The demand from Japan Public and East Asia countries in this case China and Korea toward *Yakuza* activities, and the support come from Japan government through NPA and Japan Public Safety Commission. The Input from the public also fulfills the criteria to be processed into the bill or policy in Japan to cope *Yakuza* issue. As the continuation of the bill has been converted by Japan government and delivered new law which is anti-*Yakuza* countermeasure act in 1992.

D. THE HYPOTHESIS

Japan government response to *Yakuza* issue by issuing anti-*yakuza* bill which is an Act for Prevention of Unlawful Activities by Criminal Gang Members in 1992 in order to pushed *Yakuza* activity in Japan nor Korea and China.

⁸ David Easton, *The Political System: An Inquiry into the State of Political Science*, Alfred A. Knopf, N.Y., 1953.

E. AIM OF THE STUDY

This study aims at analyzing *Yakuza* as Organized Crime and their activities in China and Korea, until the decline of *yakuza* movement in present day.

F. THE SCOPE OF RESEARCH

The research is focused in *Yakuza* activities from their existence until now. In this case the writer tries to limit the research in East Asia especially China and Korea and little bit from another countries in order to make the research more detail and stronger. The research also limits the date of research issue around 1960-1995. This issue is important because the *Yakuza* as big International Crime Syndicate have risked International stability and Japan government also.

G. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research uses a deductive method. It means that framework of theories and approaches are explored first then the hypothesis can be drawn. The hypothesis then will be proved through data and analysis.

The method of collecting the data is library research in which the data are secondary sources. Therefore, all data are taken from books, scientific papers, scientific journals, magazines, newspapers, websites, and other relevant data. Those data will be analyzed with the theories that are determined before. It

is to prove that the hypothesis is accurate and finally answers the core of the problem. Although this papers use a secondary data, the writer selects the accurate data and checks the reliability of the data to accomplish the trustworthy research.

H. THE COMPOSITION RESEARCH

The first Chapter describes the brief explanation of the paper. It explained about the background an also the core of the problem that need to be figured out. Beside, it also showed the framework of theory that used to explain the problem on the paper and from the theory; it also explains the objective, range, method and system of the research.

The Second Chapter in general described the view of *Yakuza* History and the structure of their Organization.

The Third Chapter analyzed *Yakuza* Activities in East Asia focused in China and Korea and little bit from another countries to make the research clearly.

The Fourth Chapter described and analyzed the decline of *Yakuza* movement through the law which is made by Japan government in cooperation with China and Korea government.

Chapter five is the conclusion from the first until the last chapter.