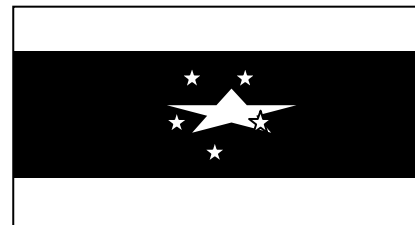


PURPLEANA



INTRODUCTION

Dutch colonization of this South Asian country in the 1600s came by way of the rise of the Unified South India Company which wooed the Purpleanian elite ruling class through its advanced technologies, military power and spice trade monopoly within the region. With the bankruptcy of this Dutch trade entity in the late 18th century, the country was left with the vestiges of a century of Dutch rule, including a population of Dutch traders and settlers who became known as Indianers, and the Dutch governmental style of parliamentary democracy.

Purpleana faces a myriad of problems including overpopulation, widespread poverty, environmental degradation, and regional instability, but its surging economic development may produce another Asian tiger if these problems don't tear the nation apart first.

GEOGRAPHY

Location: Asia
Area: 1,643,117 sq km
Capital: Indigona

PEOPLE

Population: 498,118,698
Median age: 23.2 years
Population growth rate: 1.473%
Birth rate: 22.87 births/1000 people
Death rate: 7.09 deaths/1000 people
Life expectancy: 66.5 years
Urban population: 30%
Literacy (15 or older): 57.3%

GOVERNMENT

Type: Parliamentary Democracy

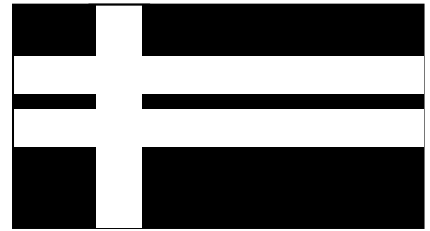
ECONOMY

GDP (Purchasing power parity):
\$2.15 trillion (2010) . 10th
GDP . per capita (PPP):
\$3,398 (per capita) . 172nd
GDP composition by sector:
18.8% Agriculture, 26.1% Industry, 55.1% Services
Imports: crude oil, precious stones, machinery, fertilizer, iron and steel, chemicals, tea, edible oils, paper
Exports: petroleum products, jewelry, machinery, iron and steel, chemicals, vehicles, textiles, sports goods, software
Resources: coal, iron ore, manganese, rare earth elements, titanium ore, chromite, natural gas, diamonds, petroleum, limestone, arable land, salt
Major Industries: textiles, chemicals, food processing, steel, transportation equipment, mining petroleum, software, pharmaceuticals

CURRENT ISSUES

Increasing food prices are driving up costs for the country's considerable population of poor, threatening political instability in the near future if costs cannot be kept under control. Purpleana is under pressure to bring the widespread cultivation and export of opium (poppies) to a halt. Opium proceeds fund internal and international terrorist groups seeking the division of the state, and the acquisition of nuclear technology.

BLUEVARIA



INTRODUCTION

This breakaway republic from the former U.S.S.R. gained independence in 1994 after several previous attempts, which were met with bloody crackdowns. The heady optimism of the country's new democracy was soon crushed by the economic hardships of a free market economy, and recent elections have seen voters return parties with socialist agendas back to power. Bluevarian corruption is endemic, and the country has been attempting to crackdown on it in recent years to encourage more foreign investment. Still, despite their tenuous relations, Russia is still Bluevaria's largest trading partner and source for the petroleum products the country runs on.

GEOGRAPHY

Location: Europe
Area: 241, 924 sq km
Capital: Cyan

PEOPLE

Population: 25, 927,73
Median age: 39.7 years
Population growth rate: -0.522%
Birth rate: 9.12 births/1000 people
Death rate: 14.98 deaths/1000 people
Life expectancy: 69.3 years
Urban population: 71%
Literacy (15 or older): 99.1%

GOVERNMENT

Type: Presidential Republic

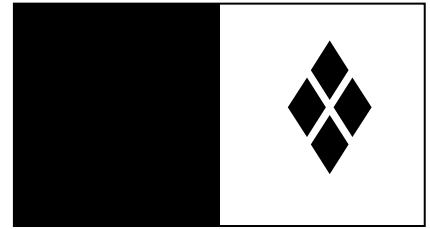
ECONOMY

GDP (Purchasing power parity):
\$170.5 billion (2010) – 61st
GDP – per capita (PPP):
\$6,400 (per capita) – 139th
GDP composition by sector:
9.5% Agriculture, 30.3% Industry, 60.2% Services
Imports: Energy, Machinery and Equipment, Chemicals
Exports: Scrap metal, ores, vehicles, timber, wine, fruits and nuts
Resources: iron ore, coal, manganese, natural gas, salt, sulfur, graphite, titanium, kaolin, nickel, mercury, timber, arable land
Major Industries: coal, electric power, steel, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, food processing

CURRENT ISSUES

Bluevarian Organized Crime (BOC) currently permeates every level of Bluevarian society and is engaged in profitable drug and sex-trade ventures both in and outside of the country. The flow of illegal weapons from BOC sources outside of the country has resulted in an increase in violent crime, with well-intentioned law enforcers and law makers often finding themselves at the wrong end of the barrel.

GREENMARK



INTRODUCTION

This former British colony located in Africa had a long history as a stop where slaves could be collected before it became a frontier settlement of greater value through the discovery of its gold and diamonds in the early 19th century. When the nation became independent in 1963, it survived for a few decades as a constitutional democracy, before a military coup overthrew the standing government and installed its own general as President of the new African Republic of Greenmark. With the recent passing of the former dictator, a new, freely-elected president has been installed. Though rich in natural resources, Greenmark has been plagued by both rampant governmental corruption and epidemic levels of HIV/AIDS, which is draining productivity from its workforce.

GEOGRAPHY

Location: Africa
Area: 553,792 sq km
Capital: Veridian

PEOPLE

Population: 2,585,196
Median age: 26 years
Population growth rate: -0.353%
Birth rate: 18.77 births/1000 people
Death rate: 16.54 deaths/1000 people
Life expectancy: 49.6 years
Urban population: 59%
Literacy (15 or older): 79.9%

GOVERNMENT

Type: Presidential Republic

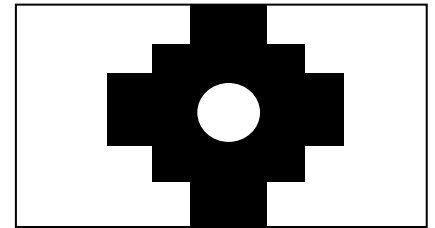
CURRENT ISSUES

Early denial of HIV/AIDS and its causes resulted in HIV/AIDS reaching epidemic proportions in Greenmark, resulting in a shortened life expectancy and reduced workplace productivity. Government corruption is systematic, with nothing getting done unless it is of financial benefit to the governmental official in question. These profits have been diverted to lavish presidential palaces, yachts, and golf courses, at the expense of AIDS prevention and treatment. Government officials are rumored to be taking a substantial cut of the royalties currently being offered by the foreign national mining companies extracting lithium and other rare earth elements from the bedrock.

ECONOMY

GDP (Purchasing power parity): \$33.55 billion (2010) – 110th
GDP – per capita (PPP): \$13,950 (per capita) – 85th
GDP composition by sector: 2.7% Agriculture, 36.2% Industry, 61.1% Services
Imports: Machinery, transportation equipment, chemicals, petroleum, manufactured goods
Exports: Corn, diamonds, gold, fruits, meat, metals and minerals, sugar
Resources: Diamonds, gold, nickel, copper, coal, salt, soda ash, arable land, biodiversity
Major Industries: Mining, metalworking, machinery, textiles, iron and steel, chemicals, fertilizer, foodstuffs, commercial ship repair

ORANGEA



INTRODUCTION

The South American country of Orangea was originally inhabited by indigenous tribes, including the Incas. However, with the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century, Orangea became a launching point for the further colonization of Spanish America. Orangea finally won independence from the Spanish in the early 19th century, and went through a tumultuous period of political upheaval, featuring several military coups featuring a series of leftist dictators. The freely-elected democratic republic of Orangea was finally realized in the early 1980s. The conservative economic policies of the Labor Party “dynasty” that has ruled almost continuously since 1992 has lead to the emergence of Orangea as an economic success story in South America.

GEOGRAPHY

Location: South America
Area: 1,756,581 sq km
Capital: Sanaranjo

PEOPLE

Population: 22,116,663
Median age: 33.4 years
Population growth rate: 0.812%
Birth rate: 13.9 births/1000 people
Death rate: 5.99 deaths/1000 people
Life expectancy: 76.9 years
Urban population: 87%
Literacy (15 or older): 94.1%

GOVERNMENT

Type: Democratic Republic

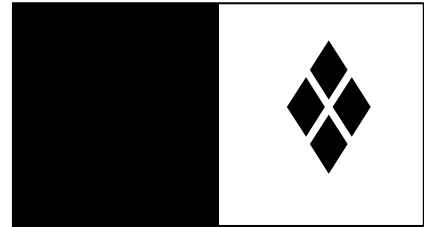
ECONOMY

GDP (Purchasing power parity):
\$151.674 billion (2010) – 63rd
GDP – per capita (PPP):
\$6,858 (per capita) – 135th
GDP composition by sector:
10% Agriculture, 40.5% Industry, 49.5% Services
Imports: Petroleum and Petroleum products, Plastics, Paper, Electrical and telecommunications equipment, Industrial machinery, Vehicles
Exports: Copper, Fruit, Fish products, Paper and Pulp, Wine, Chemicals, Natural gas, Crude petroleum, Zinc, Tin
Resources: lithium, tin, natural gas, petroleum, zinc, tungsten, antimony, molybdenum, silver, iron, lead, gold, timber, hydroelectric
Major Industries: Mining, smelting, foodstuffs, tobacco, fish processing, iron and steel, wood and wood products, transport equipment, cement,

CURRENT ISSUES

Poverty rates are high among the indigenous majority, and the cycle of migration to the city centers for work has created huge slums around the country's major cities, fostering an active sex trade and sex tourism there. Many of those who remain in the country's rural areas find that illegal drug crops yield more income than traditional fruits and vegetables, and the law enforcement does not have the resources to find and prosecute these lawbreakers.

REDONIA



INTRODUCTION

This South-East Asian country features stunning rainforests and used to be the primary supplier of the world's coffee and cocoa, as well as other aromatic spices. Already well-established as the home of an advanced mercantile empire, Redonia avoided colonization by any European powers, instead becoming a valuable trading partner. With the assassination of the Redonian Imperial family during an invasion of the second world war, the country was left leaderless. When the war ended, Redonia was returned to its people, and a public referendum determined the nature of the new Redonian government – a constitution-based republic. The past decade has seen a renewal in economic policy for the stagnated Redonian resource-based economy through focus on growth and innovation within their manufacturing sectors. Powerful environmental and industrial lobby groups are lining the pockets of well-placed Redonian politicians to ensure their re-election and support for their respective causes.

GEOGRAPHY

Location: South-East Asia
Area: 1, 219,358 sq km
Capital: Scarlett

PEOPLE

Population: 250,548,992
Median age: 36.5 years
Population growth rate: 0.411%
Birth rate: 10.59 births/1000 people
Death rate: 6.85 deaths/1000 people
Life expectancy: 76.1 years
Urban population: 71%
Literacy (15 or older): 94.2%

GOVERNMENT

Type: Constitution-based federal republic

CURRENT ISSUES

The current government has suffered multiple recent corruption scandals, with several highly-placed politicians personally benefiting through kickback schemes from the push for growth in the manufacturing sector. Questions also still remain as to how deeply in the pockets of the lobby groups some politicians lie.

ECONOMY

GDP (Purchasing power parity):

\$998 billion (2010) – 18th

GDP – per capita (PPP):

\$4,098 per capita – 163rd

GDP composition by sector:

18.1% Agriculture, 45.9% Industry, 36% Services

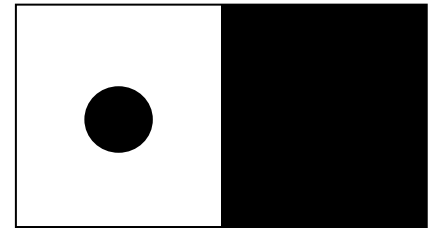
Imports: Oil and natural gas, Machinery and equipment, chemicals, fuel, automobiles, foodstuffs

Exports: plywood, textiles, shoes, electronics, coffee, rubber, palm oil

Resources: timber, bauxite, silver, tin, copper, coal

Major Industries: textiles, apparel, footwear, electronics, mining, cement, chemical fertilizers, plywood, rubber, food, tourism

YELLOWVANIA



INTRODUCTION

The presence of both petroleum and phosphate in Yellowvania has long provided a source of economic earnings via export, bringing stability to this African nation, which escaped French rule in 1960. A local sultan became king, and members of his family have ruled Yellowvania since. Yellowvania's close proximity to Europe has allowed the country to form close economic ties, and Yellowvania entered into a free trade agreement with the EU in 2007, causing a surge in the Yellowvanian economy. Poverty and unemployment are still high, and climate change threatens to claim more of the country through desertification and freshwater shortages, though local farming practices also likely play a role.

GEOGRAPHY

Location: Africa
Area: 500,115,327 sq km
Capital: Jaune

fruits, vegetables, fish

Resources: Petroleum and Natural gas, iron ore, phosphates, fish, manganese, uranium, zinc, salt

Major Industries: Petroleum and Natural gas, phosphate rock mining and processing, food processing, tourism

PEOPLE

Population: 33,211,678
Median age: 27.2 years
Population growth rate: 1.009%
Birth rate: 18.31 births /1000 people
Death rate: 4.77 deaths /1000 people
Life expectancy: 74.8 years
Urban population: 63%
Literacy (15 or older): 59.7%

GOVERNMENT

Type: Constitutional Monarchy

ECONOMY

GDP (Purchasing power parity):

\$199.7 billion (2010) – 56th

GDP – per capita (PPP):

\$5,980 (per capita) – 143rd

GDP composition by sector:

7.9% Agriculture, 60.5% Industry, 31.6% Services

Imports: telecommunications equipment, electricity, transistors, plastic, foodstuffs

Exports: Petroleum and Natural gas, electric components, phosphate, inorganic chemicals, transistors, crude minerals, citrus

CURRENT ISSUES

Yellowvania seems to have fostered and/or harbored an unusually high number of the captured and convicted ecoterrorists from the Greener Good, perhaps because the organization is actively recruiting at the doorstep to Europe for strategic reasons. Although the Yellowvanian government is offering its full cooperation with international efforts to find and convict these terrorists, and thus avoid sanctions, it is rumored that some of the most wanted criminals who escaped capture in Greenmark may be hiding here.

FACTSHEET: BLUEVARIAN ORGANIZED CRIME

GOAL

The general goal of Bluevarian Organized Crime is to maximize profit, although this encompasses a cluster of smaller goals related to the different branches of the organization. It is thought that the primary source of income for the BOC is the illegal drug trade, although it is also involved in identity theft, prostitution, counterfeiting and weapons dealing. It seems reasonable to assert that the BOC would like to monopolize these niches within Europe in the short term.

BACKGROUND

Bluevarian Organized Crime first emerged after the republic of Bluevaria broke away from Russia in 1994. What began as black market profiteering off the proceeds from prostitution and the drug trade led the BOC into banking and protection services. A strict code of honor and successful bribery of key law enforcement officials ensured the group's integrity during the early days but as the group grew in size and power, it morphed into a more Westernized "corporation".

THE LEADER

Lennie Moskowitz, the disowned and disillusioned only son of Bluevarian steel tycoon Dmitry Moskowitz, is thought to be the current head of the BOC, running it together with several cousins living in the nation's capital of Cyan. Moskowitz was groomed through his young adulthood to take over the family steel business, but refused to do so, resulting in his expulsion from the family. Still, possessing his father's entrepreneurial spirit, Lennie quickly got into drug trafficking and climbed his way up the BOC corporate ladder to replace the murdered Pasha Morozov as head after he was retired in 2008.

Moskovitz has been responsible for the expansion of the BOC beyond the borders of Bluevaria, largely via alliance building with foreign drug cartels to gain distribution agreements for drugs and money using the BOC's financial institutions. As such, Moskowitz is now a target for both competing organized crime family hitmen and European investigative agencies. As a result, Moskowitz has become more reclusive, leaving the day-to-day runnings of his organization to his high-placed cousins.

THE AGENTS

The lack of a clear economic plan when independence was gained resulted in high unemployment in Bluevaria in the 1990s, creating a large pool of talent to draw from for the BOC. The fact that many Bluevarians left the country to search for employment in greater Europe also provided plausible alibis for crime agents carrying out their illegal activities abroad. Agents of the BOC have been connected to drug crimes in countries as far away as Orangea and Purplestan. Although no formal link has been established, some have postulated that the Greener Good's supply of funds and weapons is being handled by BOC intermediaries.

THE IMPACT

Despite efforts by the Bluevarian government to crackdown on corruption within its ranks and rampant crime within Bluevarian society itself, the current reality is that the BOC has a hand in most of the country's economic activity, including activities within the banking sector. This has made it hard to attract foreign investment, hampering development within the country. Moreover, the risks associated with standing up to the BOC have discouraged many of the country's uncorrupted leaders from running for office or joining other branches of public service.

FACTSHEET: THE GREENER GOOD

GOAL

To overthrow the reigning ecodestructive-industrial complex with its dependence on ecotoxic, non-renewable resources, its exploitation of developing nations and their natural and human resources, and its monopolization and pollution of life-giving water, in order to usher in a new era of eco-conscious stewardship of the planet and its citizens.

BACKGROUND

The Greener Good started as people's protest movement in Greenmark, during a period of intense foreign national industrial exploitation of the country for its rich Coltan deposits (an ore containing the heat-resistant metallic tantalum powder used in the production of technologies like cell phones and computer chips). The corrupt government was harvesting royalties for the personal use of members of the ruling elite, while ignoring the HIV/AIDS epidemic and welfare of the resulting orphaned child workforce who were forced into mining coltan to survive. The profitable, unregulated mining was also leading to widespread erosion and water pollution, as well as the hunting of endangered gorillas as bush meat.

THE LEADER

Darwin Libris, himself a former impoverished orphaned coltan miner who witnessed the human misery and environmental destruction, became a charismatic firebrand for this movement. At first, he publicly organized highly successful general strikes, marches, and sit-ins, but following a period of imprisonment and rumored torture for his civil disobedience, Libris radicalized, convinced that the only way to change the corrupt government was to overthrow it by force. A string of assassinations of several foreign mining executives culminated with an unsuccessful attempt on the president's life. None were ever formally linked to Darwin Libris, though the captured assassins claimed their actions were for "The Greener Good" – a phrase often used by Libris in his public orations.

When the new regime came to power after the passing of Greenmark's last military president, some of the first laws enacted by the new government played off Libris' popularity by strictly regulating Coltan mining in Greenmark. The victory of this "David" over the powerful multinational mining "Goliath" became a new touchstone moment for the environmental movement, and sensing the movement's growing popularity, Libris finally officially released a manifesto for the "Greener Good" movement calling for the transformation of the world economy to focus on renewable solar and wind technology, while abandoning oil and the ecodestructive-industrial complex.

THE ATTACKS

While the Coltan company assassinations in Greenmark were arguably the first acts of terror committed by "The Greener Good," the first attack following Libris' release of The Greener Good's manifesto was the bombing of an oil rig off the coast of Africa, which resulted in 29 deaths and millions of barrels of oil spilled. A Youtube video by Darwin

Libris discovered in the hours proceeding the attack claimed responsibility for The Greener Good and threatened more violence until the world gave up its dependence on fossil fuels. Nine months later, The Greener good claimed responsibility for sabotaging the Purplestani supply of the herbicide Roundup (used on genetically modified crops) in order to destroy millions of hectares of genetically modified maize and cotton. In 2002, several electronics assembly plants in Redonia and Bluevaria that were reliant on cheap components made from black market tantalum were bombed. The most destructive attack by the Greener Good thusfar has been the destruction of the San Salvados megadam in Orangea, which caused the loss of 196 lives and an important local economic engine.

THE AGENTS

By and large, the majority of captured Greener Good terrorists thus far have originated from Greenmark. These agents have been well-educated, middle-class young men with access to Greener Good propaganda online. Many have been immigrants to the countries in which they have committed their crimes, although it is uncertain whether their malicious intentions preceded or followed their immigration. In recent years, Orangea and Purplestan have also generated Greener Good agents and sympathizers. It is also rumored that several wanted Greener Good agents have taken refuge from the law in Yellowvania.

THE IMPACT

Within Greenmark itself, the government has had to tread the thin line of official opposition against The Greener Good, cooperating with international efforts to track down and incarcerate Greener Good agents and financiers, while in many cases acquiescing to the terrorist group's demands in order to avoid further attacks. As a result, the Greenmarkian economy has been transformed over the past decade to focus on eco-friendly solar and wind technologies within its production sector.

FACTSHEET: THE NPOs

Clean Air Today

The mission of Clean Air Today is to improve air quality through public awareness campaigns led by famous spokespersons and concerted lobbying of government institutions to push for stricter emissions guidelines. Established in 1992, Clean Air Today has been organizing national “Bike for the Right to Clean Air” bicycle protest rides on highways across Orangea and in partner cities worldwide since its inception. Clean Air Today is a not-for-profit organization, whose manager, Kyle Densmore, has optimistically engaged the youth of Orangea in this movement for a brighter future.

Humans for Ethical Animal Treatment

Humans for Ethical Animal Treatment, or HEAT, is a non-profit, charitable foundation whose mission is to end animal abuse and suffering through campaigns to end the industrialized production and slaughter of animals for food, clothing and research. HEAT has established branches in 93 countries worldwide, and has been working together with other lobby groups and local governments to improve the welfare of animals in industrialized farm and research facility settings.

Human – Animal Tolerance Society

The Human-Animal Tolerance Society is an independent, not-for-profit research and education organization whose mission is to provide leadership in the research and development of animal-centered farming practices and regulations which provide quality of life and dignified end-of-life for animals of all descriptions – from honey bees to herd animals. Research efforts are currently focused on emerging and neglected animal welfare issues, with a priority on: Bee Colony Collapse disorder and its relation to repeated hive relocation, Infectious Salmon Anemia in farmed fish, and cow mental welfare as it relates to extended feedlot habitation.

The Jamesons, a Purpleanian crime family, decided to launder their wealth accumulated as weapons dealers by purchasing a building in Italy worth almost U S\$1,500,000. They financed the investment with a bank loan for which two life insurance policies totaling more than US\$200,000 were lodged as security. Cheques drawn on a notary and on a European foreign exchange office, rather than the individuals involved had paid these insurance contracts.

As the insurance company thought that this transaction was unusual, it decided to disclose to the Italian FIU in September of 2009. On receipt of the report the FIU began a financial investigation and the financial analysts assigned to the case discovered that the monies behind the cheques supporting the policy had been deposited in cash at the same day in two other European countries. Furthermore, the individual who placed the money was known by the police of one of the countries for his links with a criminal serving time in prison for money laundering on behalf of a Bluevarian Organized Crime, who were heavily involved in drugs trafficking.

During the investigation the analysts also discovered that the Jamesons had conducted a number of similar real estate investments in recent years for a total amount of more than US\$17,000,000, including a castle and some other buildings in the South of Europe. A bank had not financed these investments but 'Speedy Inc', a company controlled by the Andersons, another Purpleanian family. The Jameson family had also registered plans with the local authorities to establish a casino in the castle. The construction costs for this casino were estimated at over U S\$3,500,000. One of the Jamesons was also acting on behalf of a company located in America involved in the repurchasing of debt secured on properties in the South European area.

The Andersons had recently bought in France two speedboats for about U S\$17,000,000 from a European shipyard controlled by a member of the Jameson family. This shipyard had recently opened a subsidiary in Italy.

A further interesting aspect identified by the analysts was that the Jamesons did not have a way of life that matched with the amount of known investments in Europe. They seemed to have only small incomes and lived in an inexpensive house that was financed almost entirely by a mortgage. Furthermore, according to the local anti-drugs agencies where they lived the family had links with a criminal known to be involved in drugs trafficking.

All of this information, coupled with information received from two other FIUs led the analysts to conclude that they were dealing with the financial transactions of a major criminal organization and they therefore decided to forward the case to the public prosecutor, as did also the two other FIUs in their respective countries. The public prosecutor started legal proceedings on charges of money laundering.

During the investigations by law enforcement, it was discovered that the Jamesons were also known for smuggling stolen luxury cars in the early nineties, which could have formed the seed capital for their current wealth and criminal activities.

PURPLEANA – CASE 2

Geoffrey Gunn visited several branches of his British bank to deposit significant amounts of cash into his company account. The amounts ranged from US\$15-40,000. He visited all the branches in a single day, and the branches were all within a short distance of each other. Since this financial institution had automated account-monitoring procedures, the different deposits raised an initial alert for further examination by a human operator.

Geoffrey was a citizen of Purpleana and according to the customer records at the bank ran a business importing second hand electrical goods from Asia. Fund transfers were made in an irregular basis to accounts in Purpleana - presumably payments for goods. The credit deposits were apparently proceeds from the sale of the goods in Europe, although the financial institution was concerned at the pattern of deposits. If these credits were legitimate, than why wouldn't Geoffrey deposit the whole amount at his own branch? The bank decided to report the credit deposits to the British FIU in June of 2009.

To allow some time for an investigation to be developed, the FIU granted the bank the authority to continue to operate Geoffrey's account normally. After analyzing the transaction reports and bank records, the FIU decided to seek further documentary evidence concerning the shipment of goods from Asia. The FIU directed the bank to ask Geoffrey's accountant to produce them. A short time later, a number of airway bills and invoices which purported to support the alleged shipments were brought produced for the financial institution and passed on to the FIU.

The FIU served production orders on the account in order to obtain formal records of all transactions through the account over the previous few years. The FIU also contacted the Customs service and requested attention to be focused on future shipment of the electrical goods linked to Geoffrey's company as they entered Europe from Asia. Customs identified a shipment that was found to contain heroin with a street value of over US\$300,000.

The Purpleanian principal organizer - Alexander Steen - was identified and subsequently convicted to six years imprisonment for the substantive drug trafficking offence. Further financial and other investigations also identified that the Purpleanian principal had been involved in eight similar drug importations. He was sentenced to a further ten years imprisonment for these importations to run concurrently. The court further upheld that he had benefited from drug trafficking in excess of US\$1,500,000 and made a confiscation order for this amount. Geoffrey fled the country, and a warrant was issued for his arrest for money laundering and other offences.

PURPLEANA – CASE 3

A police team in Purpleana initiated an investigation into the Savon family -suspected to be involved in drugs trafficking and money laundering. It was suspected that the family was using a Bureau de Change company, 'Family Holding', to facilitate the laundering process. One of the relatives managed the business from abroad. Other members of the family, Marcel and Luc Savon, were the local managers and primarily undertook foreign currency exchange activity, with 'profits' from the business being deposited in cash into the company accounts. Whilst the police were investigating this family using traditional law enforcement techniques, the family's financial transactions were at the same time being monitored by financial institutions who became suspicious of the activities observed on the company accounts.

Within a short time-span - less than two months - large movements of funds occurred within the accounts of 'Family Holding'. By means of cash deposits and transfers, approximately US\$425,000 was credited and nearly US\$213,000 transferred to a personal account at a foreign bank. The financial institution concerned was suspicious of the fund movement and accordingly decided to disclose the transactions to the national FIU.

In view of the sizeable amounts of funds involved, the FIU undertook searches of both its own intelligence databases and other law enforcement and commercial databases in January of 2010. The register of the Chamber of Commerce showed that Luc was one of the directors of 'Family Holding', as well as being registered in the national police database as involved in organized crime. The latest disclosures also showed that Marcel had performed transactions himself by depositing significant sums into his own personal account, after which he had transferred practically the whole amount to the Family Holding company account. As the FIU was collating the various disclosures and intelligence into a form which could be passed to the investigating police force, yet another bank made separate disclosures reporting new transactions involving another Family Holding account. From the Family Holding account at this institution significant sums were transferred - via an account at a foreign bank - to personal accounts in Greenmark. The FIU passed all the intelligence relating to the transactions involving Family Holding, Luc and Marcel on to the police unit.

All together the equivalent of over US\$425,000 was exchanged and channelled abroad during a twelve-month period. The FIU report supported the police investigation, and assisted in determining the scale of the drug dealing and the volume of laundering undertaken.

The financial investigation also determined that the profits were being used to purchase real estate in Greenmark and Yellowvania. When several key suspects were arrested and interviewed by the police unit, the financial intelligence from the FIU assisted to overcome initial attempts at silence - a number of suspects admitted to their involvement and claimed they acted on orders of the main leaders of the family.

In total some US\$4,300,000 worth of real estate was seized abroad. Luc and Marcel were convicted for fourteen and twelve years of imprisonment respectively in relation to drugs trafficking and money laundering offences. Furthermore, fines totaling some US\$425,000 were imposed on the brothers as a further penalty.

PURPLEANA – CASE 4

The Smith family, citizens of Purpleana, owned the local bank for several years. Since they established the bank, Jessica and Kirk Smith were the biggest shareholders. Their son Stan was the president of the board of directors, and their daughter Lisa was another director.

Although their bank was not a large-scale operation and had a low level of capital (and therefore did not have a high credit rating on the national or international markets), business was going well. Huge credit agreements were signed, while the amounts involved increased well above the recorded capital of the bank.

Staff of the national FIU read in the newspaper allegations that some of the bank's customers were connected to drug trafficking in August of 2009. That was reason enough for the FIU to initiate an investigation into the bank's shareholders and directors. During the ongoing investigation, it became clear that the Smith family laundered the proceeds of crime for several criminal operations. By preparing false documents such as letters of credit and prime bank guarantee letters, they provided their clients a way to conceal the revenues of drugs trafficking and other crimes. In return, the Smith family received significant levels of commission for their services.

To give the received commission a plausible origin, the family used the loan-back method. By showing that the money originated from credit agreements, supposedly given by foreign financial institutions, the commission seems as licit credits obtained from abroad. The FIU also detected that members of the family had no tax liabilities, but did have large amounts of money in the Smith's bank. The money in these accounts was also concealed by the loan-back method.

The FIU passed on the file to the public prosecutor's office, in order to charge the Smith family for the offence of money laundering. They were each sentenced to two years imprisonment and required to pay a fine of approximately US\$2,000,000. In addition, a total of US\$5,000,000 was confiscated.

PURPLEANA – CASE 5

Mary Vanderbilt worked at a Purpleanian company where she held the post of a clerical officer within the company's accounts department. In her position she was able to misappropriate suppliers cheques. She lodged a total of US\$36,000 to an investment account controlled by her Uncle Jim Ness at a finance company. The two fraudsters thought that the Purpleanian financial institution at which the account was held would not be suspicious of fund transfers into an account associated with a well-established finance company. However, the finance company itself discovered the unusual transfer during a routine audit inspection, and disclosed the transactions to the Purpleanian FIU.

The FIU made an application to the courts for an order to make material relating to Jim's account at the finance company available to the investigation team. The finance company had kept accurate records and the investigation team was therefore able to rapidly analyze the various transactions. Jim had tried to conceal the funds through his account by obtaining a number of loans, all for similar sums of approximately US\$8,000. These loans were repaid quickly using the misappropriated cheques to offset the outstanding balances and produce a 'clean' source of the funds.

When Jim was arrested in September of 2010, he was questioned as to his part in handling the missing monies. He admitted to receiving the cheques from Mary and lodging them at the finance company. Employees from the finance company identified Jim as the accountholder in a formal identification parade. Mary made a statement under caution admitting that she had stolen money from her employer. She further admitted misappropriating cheques from her employer and handing them over to her uncle. Jim was interviewed again and made a statement under caution outlining his participation in the fraud. He confessed that he has been fully aware that his niece had stolen from her employer.

Various charges of larceny were arranged against Mary. Charges of money laundering were made against Jim in respect of each occasion he lodged a stolen cheque into his account at the finance company.

PURPLEANA – CASE 6

A Purpleanian drug trafficking cartel operated throughout the 1980's and early 1990's transporting a range of illegal narcotics to different countries in Europe. A single individual named Juan Gomez controlled the whole organization. To conceal and disguise the profits of the illegal activity, Juan organized the creation of several corporations with the help of financial professionals. One of his main advisers in the financial world was Ricardo Sanchez, to whom he gave some US\$28,000,000 to launder.

In a financial institution (A) in a big city of a European country, Ricardo designed, with the assistance of bank officers Antonio and Maria Lourdes, a financial scheme to conceal the origin of the funds. Initially, the laundering scheme relied upon investment portfolio into which the drugs-funds could be moved and withdrawn without attracting significant attention - especially since Mr. & Mrs. Lourdes were the employees responsible for monitoring such accounts. The ability to place the funds inside the institution was extremely valuable, as other institutions that the funds were subsequently moved to assumed that institution A had undertaken appropriate checks of the source of the funds.

In 1990, the bank officers moved jobs to a subsidiary financial institution in another city. They began to transfer the funds from the first institution to the institution in the second city, to facilitate a continued tight level of control. In order for Mr. & Mrs. Lourdes to be able to conceal their link to the funds, they used the services of another financial subsidiary located in an offshore banking centre that specialized in providing assistance for the management of investment portfolios where the names of the beneficiaries were concealed.

To move the funds, they created a shell-company in the offshore centre. On paper the company controlled several investment portfolios, into which they invested the funds from the first institution (US\$28,000,000). In order to make it appear that the shell-company was investing profits from legitimate businesses they used the names of a bureau de change office in a Central American country, a corporation in the first country, and another in the offshore centre.

However, the national FIUs in two of the countries received disclosures on some of the fund transfers, and by exchanging intelligence were able to determine the financial trail. At the time of writing, a financial investigation was proceeding to determine the true extent of laundering that had taken place, with a view to eventual arrest and prosecution.

PURPLEANA – CASE 7

Ann and Louise Marsden- two sisters, who lived in Purpleana - daydreamed about big money, fast cars and long holidays. They discussed the possibilities of accomplishing their dreams, but always came up against two problems: they were not the most talented of individuals and, more importantly, they were allergic to hard work. Therefore, Louise, the eldest sister, began to consider the possibility of illegal activities. It didn't take long before they had decided - Ann and Louise would try to become rich by selling drugs.

Soon they had made all the necessary contacts and business was going well. The sisters were making a lot of money. They both opened accounts at two different offices of a Purpleanian bank - thinking that that way they could avoid being noticed by the authorities. However, their assessment of their own intelligence was surprisingly accurate - they had failed to understand the anti-money laundering regulations designed to detect such activities.

The bank detected large cash deposits into both accounts amounting to more than US\$1,000,000. Each and every time the sisters made a deposit, they immediately transferred the money or asked the bank to issue bank cheques. The beneficiaries included a number of individuals and companies in New World countries. Due to regulations the sisters had to fill in forms stating the purpose of sending their money out of the country. At first Ann and Louise declared that they imported textile products and were sending funds to cover purchase costs in the originating nations. In later transfers the cover story had changed to importation of fish and other foodstuffs. Documentation passed to the bank to support the cover stories was unconvincing and appeared possibly counterfeit. The bank was not really convinced about the probity of the sisters' business and disclosed their transactions to the national FIU in February of 2010.

The FIU started to investigate the sisters' conduct. Although Ann and Louise had claimed that they traded in textile and fish products, their names did not exist in the chamber of commerce database or any other commercial databases linked to these business sectors. It seemed highly likely to the FIU that no such importations were in fact done. Then the FIU received information from a police unit that Louise had been seen in the company of individuals known to be involved in drugs trafficking. The final nail in the coffin for the sisters laundering attempt is the fact that the sisters were arrested at the border of a European country carrying 25 kilograms of cocaine. Able to make a rapid decision in the face of such overwhelming evidence, the FIU sent the transaction details and its final analysis to the judicial anti drug authorities, which in turn passed the case to court.

Ann and Louise were sentenced to seven and ten years imprisonment respectively. A recent appeal was dismissed, with the Supreme Court confirming the sentence as justified due to indications of repetitive money laundering activity and interrelated drugs trafficking offences.

PURPLEANA – CASE 8

Max Maxwell was involved in a number of money transfers to Greenmark. Although he worked in a Purpleanian bank as a clerk, rather than using his own institution he used one of the major money-transmitters to wire transfer the funds. Because Max always visited the same branch of the money transmission organization, the employees got to know him. It was this familiarity that caused the employees to note when Max appeared at the counter with a couple of other men. Immediately after Max transmitted his latest tranche, one of the companions named Philippe Gatineau, also remitted monies to the same beneficiary in Greenmark.

The employees thought that the situation was a bit odd, and the next time Max visited the branch asked about the purpose of all these transactions. Max became very defensive and hostile towards the questioning, which raised suspicions even further. On top of that, Max' companions used their own names to transfer the money, whilst it was obvious that Max was the real owner as he gave them the funds to use. The money transmitter representative decided to file a transaction report to the Purpleanian national FIU.

While investigating this disclosure, the Purpleanian FIU could not find any incriminating evidence on Max. On the contrary, Max seemed to be the victim of the well known '419-fraud'. '419' frauds generally work by promising a large benefit to the victim, whilst demanding an up-front payment - small in comparison to the promised reward - to facilitate the whole scheme. The up-front payments continue to increase as long as the victim remains convinced that the end reward would be coming their way. The end reward never appears. Groups operating out of Greenmark (although such activities can be organized from anywhere in the world) frequently attempt such frauds. The FIU did discover that Max's companions were more interesting. They appeared to have some connections to the red- light industry. However, due to lack of evidence, the FIU decided to delay initiating an investigation.

A few months later, in August of 2010, a foreign FIU sent a request for information concerning several persons sending money transfers, one of which was the aforementioned Philippe. It seemed that Philippe had been using a money-transmitter in the foreign country to send huge sums - via money transfers - to his home country.

In the meantime, the national FIU discovered that Philippe was being investigated by a local police-unit for participation in a '419' fraud. The FIU informed the foreign FIU accordingly, and requested permission to pass the intelligence on to the investigating unit. The foreign unit decided to grant permission to pass Philippe's transaction report on to the police. The foreign report became police information, ready to be used in the '419'-fraud investigation.

At time of reporting, the investigation was nearing completion, with several key suspects likely to be arrested for fraud and other offences.

PURPLEANA – CASE 9

The Purpleanian FIU received from a number of different banks' suspicious transaction reports concerning Andre LeBrun in May of 2009. Andre was exchanging currency of a neighboring country into both the national currency and the currency of another Asian country. The banks suspected that Andre was laundering money since he exchanged currencies on the same day in different cities. The total amount of money involved in the three suspicious transaction reports was approximately US\$255,000. As an explanation, Andre had said that the money was coming from dealing in heavy machinery engines for farmers and contractors and that the engines were bought in Eastern Europe and sold to immigrants in the neighboring country who often wanted to pay in cash. Due to the sheer size of the funds involved, and the fact that Andre appeared to be undertaking a difficult and complex way of exchanging funds, the banks did not believe his explanation and reported the transactions. The FIU began an investigation, and following analysis of the transactions and other relevant data forwarded the information to the FIU in the neighboring country on an intelligence-only basis. This FIU also began an investigation into Andre.

Andre was placed under surveillance, and the police learned that he made several trips to the neighboring country in a short space of time. The police in the neighboring country arrested him at the point where he handed his car over to a small local garage. The police found 9kg of hashish hidden in the car. Both Andre and another individual named Sander Farooq were taken into custody and charged with drug trafficking offences.

The investigation showed that Andre had worked for several months as a courier, taking drugs to the neighboring country and returning to Purpleana with money from the sale of earlier shipments. The cash had been turned over to Andre at a series of pre-arranged meeting points in the neighboring country. Andre's task was to return to Purpleana, exchange the money into various other national currencies, and pass it on to Sander in the neighboring country. Andre had made at least four cash transports and exchanges during the time that he was under law enforcement attention. The total amount involved was approximately US\$250,000, for which he was paid a commission of 20 percent.

Andre and Sander were both sentenced to eight years imprisonment, with the conviction reflecting both the drug trafficking crimes as well as the laundering of proceeds. More than US\$160,000 in proceeds was confiscated.

PURPLEANA – CASE 10

While driving his truck across the border of Purpleana in January of 2010, Victor Vincent, who worked for an international transport company, was caught with a huge amount of cash in different currencies stashed in his truck. Under local legislation, Victor should have declared this money to customs before attempting to cross the border. Furthermore, the money was concealed in a package, which had names of a number of persons and companies on it.

As the police were questioning him, they remembered an intelligence report that they had received from a neighboring country a few days before. Kevin Benedict, who also worked for an international transport company, was caught bringing money into the neighboring country without declaring it to customs. The police thought that there could be a connection between the two cases and decided to co-operate more closely with the neighboring country. A further possible link was that one of the names on Victor's package was Rob Vector. Rob was a citizen of the neighboring country, and he owned an exchange office in that jurisdiction. According to police information, Rob was linked to a terrorist organization and his exchange office was heavily involved in laundering the organizations' dirty money.

The police notified the Purpleanian FIU of the cash detection and the possible link to the neighboring country. The FIU decided to analyze the names and company details on Victor's package to determine whether they had any known or suspected links to criminality. The FIU determined that Pete, one of the names on the package, was Rob's brother and also had his own exchange office in the neighboring country. Apart from that, Pete had authorization in two non-residential accounts in Purpleana. Inquiries with the bank employees revealed that the identity of the actual account holders was unknown. Financial analysis identified that Pete was using the non-residential accounts to transfer money to several countries. According to the documentation supplied by Pete to the financial institution, the transferred money was income from an export business. That way Pete concealed the real origin of the monies.

At time of writing, the trials are still in progress.

PURPLEANA – CASE 11

A Purpleanian FIU detected an international fund transfer scheme involving both Redonia and Orangea. The individuals involved used false names and addresses, which made it difficult to link them to law enforcement intelligence on known offenders. The persons traveled extensively but maintained bases in specific countries from which the funds originated. They made several international funds transfer instructions through a range of financial institutions, all of which were structured to avoid mandatory reporting requirements. However, the nature of this activity aroused the suspicion of the bank and, after the bank disclosed the transactions in May of 2011, the suspicion of the Purpleanian FIU. Following further analysis, the case was passed to the police who initiated an investigation.

The financial activity continued throughout the following year. The police monitored the international movements of the individuals and the financial transactions. International exchanges of information revealed that Redonian police also suspected that the individuals involved were probably involved in drug trafficking activities. During the investigation, the Redonian police searched a courier arriving from Purpleana. The suspect carried US\$90,000 in bank drafts.

Through criminal intelligence analysis, the suspected coordinator of the heroin importations Hussam Nafisi was identified. The ongoing investigation led the police to search an airfreight package arriving in country. The package contained glass sculptures that held almost sixty kilograms of high-grade heroin. By using a controlled delivery, the police discovered the address where criminals removed the heroin from the surrounding glass and prepared it for distribution. Six individuals were arrested for heroin importation offences. As the investigation continued, the police were able to monitor the actions of other people known to be involved in the drug syndicate. Other members of the syndicate, involved in sending a second shipment of heroin to Orangea were also arrested whilst authorities intercepted the shipment.

Martin Freeman, Manuela Mendez and Duncan Crane were three Purpleanians who found an easy but - as they later realized - dangerous way to earn money by smuggling heroin. The three were in their twenties, but had already decided to set up a criminal business to generate wealth. The only difficulty that they foresaw was that their bank accounts would show significant changes in levels of activity in comparison to earlier -legitimate - employment. Additionally, there were problems with the reporting obligations of the financial institutions. Martin, Manuela and Duncan were very well informed of the risks of disclosure, as were their foreign contacts. After a few days of studying the disclosure regulations in their country, the three drug traffickers decided to ask their customers to send payments for the drugs in small amounts using a number of subordinates to further dispel suspicion; a classic case of laundering by 'smurfing'. New accounts would also have to be opened to prevent comparisons with previous financial behavior.

As part of the laundering plan, Martin opened a new account at the local bank. He told the bank employee that he worked as a taxi driver, and that he lived on a public housing estate. The cashier did not view the account-opening request as unusual, as Martin fitted the typical customer profile of that branch. Over the following year, activity through the new account remained low. However, as time went on the trafficking business started to increase in scale, and so too did the proceeds that needed laundering. At the same time, unemployed Manuela, and factory worker Duncan, also opened accounts at the same bank.

One and a half years after the foundation of their smuggling business, the first significant drugs-shipment succeeded. The three young entrepreneurs finally began to see the fruits of their labors as the foreign customers started to send them the payments for the heroin.

Within three months of the successful shipment, Martin received, by a large number of small transfers, almost US\$190,000 into his account from overseas. In the same period, Duncan received, through a dozen remittances, almost US\$200,000 and Manuela received almost US\$120,000. The criminals used 12 smurfs in total to facilitate the transfers. In order to further layer the funds, the three friends withdrew the money in cash on the same day that they had received it.

Fortunately, the bank employees were aware of the 'know your customer' rules of the jurisdiction and they noticed the unusual activity in all three accounts. The employees also saw that the three accounts sometimes received money from the same individuals, demonstrating a link between three apparently unconnected customers. They also noticed that the money received was always withdrawn within a day and that the remitted money always came from the same country. The bank had sufficient suspicion to report the case to the Purpleanian FIU in March of 2011.

Following a financial investigation, law enforcement was able to arrest and charge six individuals including Martin and Duncan, for conspiracy to traffic in dangerous drugs and the seizure of 7.4 kg of heroin. At time of writing, two of the defendants had already pleaded guilty and were awaiting sentence. Martin, Duncan, and the other two defendants were awaiting trial.

Leo Loewen, a non-resident of Purpleana, wasn't very satisfied with his legitimate annual income as an employee of a postal service. Along with Joey Waters, a close companion, he decided to concentrate on finding a quick and painless way to obtain wealth. After some time, the duo believed that they had identified a good - if illegal - way of making money.

Leo used his local bank to open a foreign currency account into which he deposited a check for approximately US\$225,000, issued by a company registered in Delaware. At the local bank, Joey shadowed Leo's actions, ready to step in as a character reference if needed, as he was already a longstanding customer of the bank. The front desk employee noticed Joey at the time the account was opened by Leo, but didn't question his presence at that time.

After Leo received the money into his newly opened account, he immediately withdrew most of it. He withdrew approximately US\$105,000 in the local currency and US\$50,000 in American currency. He then ordered the bank to transfer US\$60,000 to Joey's account at the same institution. Joey, for his part, withdrew the money as soon as it was credited into his account.

While Leo and Joey enjoyed their ill-gotten gains, the local bank received the alarming news that Leo, in fact, was not the individual authorized to cash the check. The bank immediately informed the Purpleanian FIU about the apparent fraud by Leo. The disclosure included the obvious link between Leo and Joey (documented by the fund transfer).

After receiving the bank's report, the Purpleanian FIU initiated a preliminary investigation. By exchanging information with the FIU in Leo's homeland of Yellowviana, it became clear that the aforementioned check was stolen during a postal transfer. However, the foreign FIU also reported that the identity of Leo - used to open the bank account - was based upon a passport reported stolen four years ago.

During the investigation by the FIU, another account of Leo's was identified. Leo deposited US\$80,000 in the local currency into this account, and tried to transfer the money to Greenmark. He failed to transfer the money, however, because of a miscompleted payment order. Eventually Leo withdrew part of the money in cash, transferred the rest to another country and closed the account. This activity raised the suspicions of the second financial institution, and a separate financial disclosure was made to the Purpleanian FIU in July of 2011 on this account. The FIU was able to link the two accounts due to the timing and type of the currency deposits.

While the FIU was gathering more and more information, Leo contacted the first bank to close the foreign currency account. He planned to withdraw the balance, approximately US\$10,000 in cash. The financial institution made another urgent disclosure to alert the authorities. The following morning, an unsuspecting Leo entered the bank. Instead of receiving his money, Leo left in handcuffs. Joey was arrested a few days later, whilst trying to leave the country. Both individuals are currently facing charges of fraud, forgery of public documents and money laundering.

PURPLEANA – CASE 14

The Purpleanian FIU encountered an interesting fraud attempt using an old deception technique alongside new technology. An individual named John Calts established and registered a company, Maze Ltd, in country A for the provision of gambling services on the Internet. John did not apply for a regulatory license to operate such a business in that jurisdiction. The fraud revolved around the fact that there was already an internet gaming company called Maize Ltd in country B that was in no way connected with John. A month later, John arrived in country C to open an account for his company - Maze Ltd - with a local bank. This was an internet-account accessible from any jurisdiction and provided the financial flexibility necessary to facilitate the fraud.

The next stage of the fraud saw John travel to country D, where he advertised his 'business' on the Internet, specifically targeting individuals in country E. He provided gaming information to people using the web, and offered gambling on the Internet as if the service was linked to Maize Ltd. He identified a bank account, held in the bank in country D, where joining and gaming fees could be paid in. Internet gaming was very popular in country E. A large number of victims invested a total of approximately US\$3,500,000 into the account in country D. The gamblers were convinced that they were playing through an authorized and regulated service provided by Maize Ltd.

Finally, John departed for his home of Purpleana and using a portable PC attempted to transfer US\$1,000,000 from the Internet account to another bank account in Purpleana. The bank froze the account and reported the circumstances to the Purpleanian FIU in March of 2011. The FIU collated all the available data before forwarding a report to the police. Although it was difficult to identify in which country the underlying offences of fraud and deception were committed, country E opened a criminal case and launched a criminal investigation to protect its own nationals who appeared to be the majority of victims.

At time of writing, the question regarding which country was the jurisdiction in which the crimes were committed has still not been resolved. John, however, has not benefited, as the assets remain frozen.

The Purpleanian FIU received a disclosure report concerning four individuals. Three of the individuals lived in another country. The fourth person was officially registered as a resident in a tax haven on another continent. Between them they represented two foreign and two national companies.

Three of the four companies had multiple-currencies accounts in Purpleana. The fourth company held a foreign bank account. Funds were transferred from the foreign bank account to the accounts of the three other companies. Prior to these transfers, there had been no activity on the latter bank accounts. Once the funds arrived, they were either transferred to a tax haven or withdrawn rapidly in cash. The four individuals offered little co-operation with bank attempts to allay suspicions, refusing to respond to requests for explanations for the transactions. The method of fund movement coupled with a refusal to answer questions from the financial institution frustrated attempts by the bank to identify the real beneficiaries and, consequently, the origin and final destination of the funds. The bank had decided to disclose to the Purpleanian FIU in February 2011 after being unable to gain any answers from the customers.

None of the individuals or companies involved were known to the FIU. After making inquiries at the police department the FIU discovered that one of the individuals, Jaime Young, and two of the companies were already involved in a judicial investigations for terrorist financing and the laundering of money deriving from these activities. To conceal these criminal activities, a network of dummy companies had been set up. The FIU performed an in-depth analysis of the financial transactions, and retraced the financial flows by analyzing account records as far back as possible. The clear link with the criminal activities justified submission to the judicial authorities.

At the time of writing a judicial enquiry was still in progress.

PURPLEANA – CASE 16

Within Purpleana, Orlando Evans was the leader of a well-established criminal organization, which had been involved in trafficking cocaine products from neighboring countries to Europe for a number of years. The operation was closely managed and coordinated by Orlando from start to finish. Orlando and the other key individual within the organization were all known criminals with criminal records in both Purpleana and abroad, dating back to at least 1969.

In order to carry out his activities, Orlando recruited a number of his closest relatives, along with other criminals, to create a self-contained criminal organization under his sole command. The close family ties and interdependence made infiltration by undercover law enforcement operatives difficult in the extreme. His eldest son, Tristam Evans, was responsible for organizing drug shipments within a neighboring country. Tristam sent the drugs from the country overland to a third country, where they were stored pending the decision of the representative of the organization in that country regarding their shipment.

Once Tristam had informed his father in his home country that the drugs had arrived, the person in charge of operations helped to plan the shipment of the drugs to Europe. In the country from where the shipment was due to take place, Tristam used another criminal organization for the hiring of the crew and obtaining of the necessary shipping vessels. It is worth noting that all drug shipments to Europe were ordered directly by Orlando in his home country and that all payments for the smuggling operation were made with money that he supplied.

Orlando used different individuals to transport the money needed to make these payments and the payments required for shipping the drugs from the main harbor to three other American harbors. Some of these couriers already had prison and police records, for both ordinary crimes and for drug trafficking-related crimes in Orlando's home country and abroad.

Once the drugs reached Europe, there was a group of criminals whose role it was to hire individual workers to off-load the drugs; such workers tended to be personnel from the two European ports where the drugs arrived. These people were under supervision of a specific criminal who was wholly responsible for this part of the operation. After the drugs were off-loaded, another group of traffickers, who also received orders directly from Orlando, took part in the receipt and sale of the cocaine shipments to the European organizations that in turn took charge of distributing them.

The proceeds from the sale of the drugs, which were sold for approximately US\$30,000, were transferred in part in cash shipments to Orlando's home country of Purpleana and the rest deposited in cash in anonymous numbered bank accounts belonging to himself, his wife, Angelica, and Tristam.

The facts

This case started on 29 December 1996, when Orlando's criminal organization dispatched from a port near Purpleana a shipment of 52 kg of cocaine chlorohydrate on a vessel bound for a port in Europe. The drugs were dispatched under the responsibility of two men who traveled from Purpleana to the port from where the drugs were shipped. There, another member of the organization made the necessary contacts at the port for hiring a ship and a crew for transporting the drugs to Europe. Later, two other criminals traveled to Europe to take delivery of the shipment and to pay for the transport of the drugs and for the team in charge of off-loading the drugs from the vessel. Law enforcement co-ordination was such that the authorities in the European country were able to report the seizure of the drugs and the arrest of two citizens of Purpleana.

Money Laundering

With regards to the laundering of the profits generated by the drug trafficking activities, significant sums of cash were transported back into the country and deposited into bank accounts belonging to Orlando and his close relatives. Orlando had already tried to explain the funds by claiming links to the sale of property that he supposedly owned in another country, but false paperwork for the scale of funds that he was now seeking to move was unfeasible. A new laundering process was started in 1988 with Orlando's organization sending back at least US\$4,600,000 through wire transfers. The anonymous nature of the transactions - which were kept at individually low amounts - protected the laundering operation from law enforcement interest. This money was intended for the purchase of personal property and real estate,

including vehicles, apartments, a shopping mall, thoroughbred horses, and money placed in long-term investments and in safe deposit boxes.

In addition, as the FIU had discovered, the profits from drug trafficking were deposited in various accounts that the organization maintained in a bank in Europe. Indeed, with a view to concealing their investments, they had opened anonymous numbered investment accounts in the European country, with Orlando and Tristam as signatories. Tristam in turn administered, through his children and wife, other parallel accounts, which he controlled independently. Furthermore, with the participation of Angelica they made use of a Foundation, legally registered in a small Central European country, which was in turn represented by another legal entity in order to conceal the illegal profits in secret investment accounts also held in a European bank.

At time of writing, a total of approximately U S\$14,600,000 had been seized as a result of the international co-operation furnished by the law enforcement and judicial authorities in the European country, including details of all the 'anonymous' bank accounts, which made it possible to freeze the bank accounts by use of rogatory letters.

All the identified members of Orlando's criminal organization, many of whom have already been in custody for more than three years, are now being tried for conspiracy to commit drug trafficking. The only exceptions are Angelica, who is being tried for the crime of money laundering and Tristam, who is on trial for both laundering and drugs trafficking offences. In addition, Orlando himself died in prison following his conviction for both drug trafficking and money laundering.

Marjan Peeters, a well-established Purpleanian businesswoman, learned that various individuals in her country needed loans for a wide range of business ventures and investments. Since these individuals were all likely to seek loans from the same foreign bank in Britain, she planned to pretend to be a representative of this financial institution.

Marjan opened her own office and a number of clients came to arrange a loan, believing her to be the local representative of the foreign bank. As is usual business practice for some financial investment activities, Marjan asked them to pay an advance reservation fee for the arranged loans and in all fees amounting to US\$820,000 were paid into her local bank accounts.

After receiving the fees, Marjan closed her office and the clients, of course, did not receive any loans from the foreign bank. Some of the victims reported the theft to the police, who informed the Purpleanian FIU in August of 2010. Investigations were carried out by the FIU in co-operation with police and authorities in Britain.

The FIU uncovered information about Marjan demonstrating her business history, receipt of the advance fees from defrauded clients, and documenting the abrupt closure of the office, and were therefore able to obtain a court order freezing some US\$41,000 in Marjan's account. A warrant for Marjan's arrest has been issued.

The World News

Winter Edition 2010

Redonia holds International climate change conference

January 6, 2010

Facing rising water levels and bleaching of its world-famous coral reefs, Redonia has convened hundreds of the world's leading climate change experts at the Scarlett World Trade and Convention Center to discuss what can be done to limit and/or counteract the damaging effect that the world's dependence of fossil fuels is having on global temperatures – now increasing at an unprecedented rate. When combined with deforestation activities taking place in countries like Redonia, the release of greenhouse gases has likely contributed to a rate of warming in the last half of the 20th century that was double that of the rate for the century as a whole. The increased energy (in the form of heat) in the atmosphere is also likely to increase the size and frequency of tropical storms and hurricanes over the coming decades, warn experts. With the Kyoto protocol running out in 2012, the pressure is on for scientific experts to convince politicians to come to a new agreement.

Haiti devastated by massive earthquake

January 13, 2010

Thousands of people are feared dead after an earthquake of 7.0 magnitude on the Richter scale hit about 10 miles south-west of Port-au-Prince – the capital city of Haiti, with a population of close to 900,000. The Red Cross reports that up to 3 million people have been affected. Describing the earthquake as a "catastrophe", Haiti's envoy to the US said the cost of the damage could run into the billions. The tremor hit at 16:53 on Tuesday, wrecking the presidential palace, UN HQ and other buildings. There is still no official word on casualties and the extent of the devastation is only now becoming clearer with dawn breaking. Rachmani Domersant, an operations manager with the Food for the Poor charity, told Reuters that overnight the capital was in

total darkness. "You have thousands of people sitting in the streets with nowhere to go. There are people running, crying, screaming. People are trying to dig victims out with flashlights. I think hundreds of casualties would be a serious understatement." Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere and has suffered a number of recent disasters, including four hurricanes and storms in 2008 that killed hundreds.

Orangean Footballer marries Bluevarian model in storybook wedding

January 23, 2010

Orangean Footballer Tiago Lopez, best known for his game-winning goal in the recent South American Cup final, married Bluevarian model Adele Morey in a storybook wedding at the Sea Star resort on Orangea's coast on Saturday, dashing the hopes of thousands of enamored female Orangean fans. The wedding was a large affair, with footballers from both the Orangean national team and Lopez' professional team in the Orangean Golden league in attendance. Minor controversy had erupted earlier in the week, when several of Morey's relatives were stopped upon their arrival by plane in the country and temporarily denied visitors visas due to their suspected connections with Bluevarian organized crime. All were eventually allowed to proceed after swift intervention by several local politicians.

Bluevarian Reporter still missing after BOC investigative feature published

January 29, 2010

Daily World News Investigative Reporter Glenn Arsenault was last seen on January 26 - the day his investigative feature article on Bluevarian Organized Crime's infiltration of the Bluevarian Banking system was published. His fiancée, Sasha Bloomfield, fears the worst, stating that she found a

letter from Arsenault that she was to open in case of his premature death in Arsenault's personal belongings days after his disappearance. "The letter proves he knew something like this could happen, and was prepared for it," Bloomfield stated. Police have been focusing on the events that followed Arsenault's departure from Daily World News' head office in Cyan in the late evening of January 26. At the time, Arsenault was wearing a blue pinstriped suit with a white shirt, tie, and black briefcase. So far, there are no reported witnesses to the crime, but police are hoping a media blitz may refresh the memory of those who were in the vicinity and may have seen something suspicious.

Greenmarkian election set for September

February 3, 2010

The current Greenmarkian President, Jules N'Dong, has set the date of the next federal election as September 6, 2010. Widely seen to be the favorite in the coming election, N'Dong has prospered with his country on a platform of governmental reforms and green technology stimulus packages while effectively sidestepping accusations of corruption within his party – extending in some cases to N'dong himself. Opposition party leader, Adrian Clarke says he welcomes the opportunity to face the country in the upcoming election, citing a widespread undercurrent of dissatisfaction with the current government's policies among the electorate. Neither party seems ready to publicly address the growing pressure being applied internationally for Greenmark to crack down on the growing number of Greener Good terrorists living and/or training in the remote regions of the country. Officially, N'Dong's government has financed counter-terrorism measures and been cooperating with international efforts to hunt down terrorist leader Darwin Libris, but off the record, many within the government feel the attacks will not stop until these projects are prioritized.

Redonian FirstBank website target of Greener Good Cyberattack

March 10, 2010

The Redonian FirstBank website was effectively shut down for 18 hours on Thursday, following what is believed to be a retaliatory cyberattack for the bank's freezing of Greener Good terrorist Darwin Libris' accounts earlier this month. The attack began with the sending of Trojan-laced emails to bank employees, made to look as if they came from other employees and encouraging recipients to click on a link or attachment. Anti-virus experts at MacAfee commented that the attack took advantage of a zero-day vulnerability within the company's internal internet browsing software. The attacks, which appear to have originated from IP addresses in Yellowvania, have been reported to Redonian Law Enforcement.

Drought in Yellowvania drives up local food prices

March 18, 2010

Continuing dry weather in Northern Yellowvania this summer following an exceptionally dry spring has lead to significant reductions in crop yield – a fact that is already being reflected in the price of Yellowvanian staples in local grocery stores. River flow rates are at lows not seen since the old "drought of the century" in 1969. The drought also promises to have a trickle-down effect on meat prices later in the year, as fodder is now also in short supply. Meteorologists at the Yellowvanian meteorological institute say that global warming is the likely culprit, with 2010 having the warmest spring months since standardized data began being collected some 150 years ago.

The World News

Spring Edition 2010

Suspected bomber Samson captured at Greenmarkian border

April 17, 2010

Greenmarkian border police arrested suspected Greener Good bomber Kyle Samson, second cousin to the Greener Good's acknowledged leader, Darwin Libris, on Tuesday as he was attempting to cross the Greenmarkian border with a fake passport and US\$10,000 in cash. Samson was traveling with a freight trucker, who claimed to have picked up the suspect hitchhiking some 45 km from the border. The truck, registered with Greenway trucking company, was headed for Yellowvania with a shipment of fruit but was impounded for further inspection. No further details of the current investigation were released, but it is widely expected that Samson will face criminal charges in connection with the October 2009 bombing of the Veridian Post in the Greenmarkian capital city of Veridian, which killed 3 and left 17 injured, including editor, Andrew Brooks. Video surveillance from the scene identified Samson as the sole driver of the parked van which later exploded in front of the Veridian Post building. Editor Brooks had written a piece critical of The Greener Good's self-proclaimed war on the oil-based economies of the world earlier in the year, providing a suspected motive for the crime.

Redonian Senator Mosher pushes for elimination of state slush funds

May 5, 2010

For the past two decades, the Warshia state assembly has allocated US \$140 million to a state slush fund for discretionary grants to civic groups and businesses, but as state funds for things like education and other social services dry up Warshian Senator Jason Mosher is calling for an end to this practice in the next state budget. Senator Mosher stated in an official press release that he can no

longer stand for a process which costs taxpayers millions in interest accrued on moneys borrowed to maintain current slush fund levels, especially when the selection process is not transparent and the recipients are often close personal friends and supporters of the Warshian Governor. Senator Mosher faces an uphill battle, however, as neither the assembly or the senate seem willing to give up their slush fund monies.

Bluevarian Screen Star, Gretchen Hasiuk, becomes UN goodwill ambassador

May 15, 2010

Gretchen Hasiuk, best known for her nomination as best actress in 2009 for the European Screen Guild Actors award, has joined the ranks of Angelina Jolie and George Clooney in being the latest UN goodwill ambassador for the Empowerment of Women in Developing Nations program. At a press conference on Tuesday, Hasiuk spoke of the honor. "As a woman, and strong believer in the United Nation's programs and principles, I could not be more humbled and flattered to take on this important role. Few acknowledge the proven link between the improved status of women and the speed of development in developing nations – a situation I hope to change."

Yellowvanian town denies rumors of Libris' arrival

June 9, 2010

Residents of the small tourist village of New Brittany have thrown up their arms in expressions of disbelief and outrage at the notion that their quiet hamlet might be harboring wanted terrorist leader Darwin Libris. The search for the head of "The Greener Good" came to New Brittany with the arrival of 3 Greenmarkians from the Embassy in Jaune, who rented a house in the hills earlier this month. New Brittany's mayor,

Jacques Goulas, resents the Greenmarkian intrusion, and has led a protest march of the local citizenry to voice their outrage. "The Greenmarkian "secret agents" are here on the basis of one spurious report from an "extremely unreliable source" that a group of Greenmarkian tribesmen came down from the hills in a jeep to visit the local bazaar," said Goulas. Goulas makes no secret of the fact that he believes the Greenmarkian presence may spur attacks from the terrorist group in what has been a peaceful region of Yellowvania.

Orangean drug cartel engaged in turf war

June 28, 2010

There has been a 30% increase in the number of fatalities attributed to drug violence in the first half of 2010 reports the Orangean Drug Enforcement Agency. Insiders attribute the rise in the number of violent deaths to a recent escalation in the turf war between the Orangean drug cartel and its former enforcement arm, Los Hermanos, precipitated by a nightclub attack in Sanaranjo in January. The Sanaranjo nightclub was thought to be a major retail distribution center for Los Hermanos, and was the scene of a gunfight that saw 23 die. Known agents of the Orangean drug cartel were later arrested and charged with the crime. The majority of the violence has occurred in Sanaranjo thus far, but officials fear the wave may begin spreading to secondary city centers in the coming months.

Progress on relief wells may speed end of BP spill

June 30, 2010

Experts following the relief well drilling operation that started following the Deepwater Horizon oil

platform explosion on April 15 are expressing cautious optimism that relief well drilling may succeed in reaching striking distance of the blown-out Macondo well within two weeks. "Two weeks might be reasonable," said Darryl Bourgoyne, director of the petroleum engineering research and technology transfer laboratory at Louisiana State University, though he added the company still has many steps to complete first. BP reported on Tuesday that the company doesn't yet have an exact depth for the planned intersect, but in a technical briefing stated that drilling was 900 feet away from the Macondo well.

Major archeological find in Yellowvania

June 30, 2010

A pair of discoveries near Lake Mayserana in Yellowvania is calling into question the relationship between Homo erectus, the species from which modern humans evolved, and Homo habilis, the earliest hominid known to use stone tools. Previously, it was thought that Homo erectus were the daughter species to Homo habilis. However, the upper jawbone of a H. habilis dated to 1.44 million years ago, and the skull of a H. erectus dated to 1.55 million years ago were recently uncovered by archeologists Maeve McLeod and Louis Locklear. The lack of proper fossil chronology suggests that the period during which these two hominids existed overlapped for almost 500,000 years. Combined with the earlier finding of a H. erectus fossil dated to 1.9 million years, the physical evidence suggests that scientists need to rethink the current hominid family tree. "It is possible that Homo habilis is not the precursor species to Homo erectus, but rather, a sister species – a dead branch on the hominid family tree," said archeologist Maeve McLeod during a press conference.

The World News

Summer Edition 2010

Spain defeats the Netherlands 1-0 in World Cup final

July 12, 2010

Spain won its first-ever world cup yesterday in Johannesburg, South Africa in a penalty-filled matched that ended with a goal from Andrés Iniesta four minutes from the end of extra time. The Netherlands had several chances to score, most notably in the 60th minute when Arjen Robben faced Spain's goalkeeper Iker Casillas in a one-on-one, but Casillas pushed the shot wide with an outstretched leg.. Spain's best performance before yesterday had been a fourth place finish in 1950. It was the second consecutive all-European final, and marked the first time a European team has won the trophy outside Europe.

Yellowvanian dollar soars on strength of crude oil prices

July 18, 2010

The Yellowvanian dollar strengthened against most of its major currencies as crude oil, the nation's biggest export, touched a 19-month high amid escalating concerns that supply disruptions caused by an unusually active hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico. The currency pared losses against its U.S. counterpart after crude oil eased from its highest levels. Crude oil for April delivery gained 0.4 percent to \$104.88, after rising as much as 2.4 percent to \$106.95.

Orangea refuses Bluevarian foreign investor overtures to develop Lithium mining in the plateau region

August 1, 2010

Seen as the metal that will power the next generation of electric cars, ipods, handheld computers, and mobile phones, Lithium is currently one of the hottest emerging commodities on world markets. The fact that Orangea is sitting on the 4rth largest lithium reserve in the world – an estimated 1.7 million tons – makes it an attractive investment opportunity for venture capitalists looking for new opportunities. This doesn't mean that companies like Bluevarian Futures Inc have been succeeding at wooing the Orangean government into accepting their offers of assistance however. "Let me make this very clear to everyone. The previous colonialist model of exploitation of our natural resources will never be repeated in Orangea," states Mario Vargas, head of a division that oversees Lithium extraction. "Mine development will be done by Orangeans, on our own timeline." The latest spurned optimist, CEO Jack Valentine of Bluevarian Futures Inc, hasn't given up yet. "I'm convinced that a deal can be reached which would benefit both the Orangean people and my shareholders, speeding the establishment of Orangea as the source for technology-grade lithium."

Former Greenmarkian Minister of Finance convicted on tax evasion charges

August 31, 2010

In a decision which only took only 2 hours for the 12-man jury to deliver, a Greenmarkian court found former finance minister Jude Fisher guilty of large scale tax evasion. The guilty verdict carries with it a maximum prison term of 5 years, but the sentence will not be handed down until a sentencing hearing is held sometime next month. The case involved a 2007 share transfer deal to Fisher's adopted brother Joseph US\$18 million.

Redonian Government Officials deny accepting bribes from Bluevarian Organized Crime Syndicate

September 5, 2010

In the face of mounting evidence that their previous election campaigns were financed, at least in part, by monies originating from Bluevarian Organized Crime dummy corporations, several prominent Redonian Government officials came forward yesterday in a press conference to deny any knowledge of their illegal funding sources during the runup to the 2008 election. Insiders speculate that the recent weakness of parties and party systems in Redonia has played its part, as the dearth of fee-paying party members and the modest amounts available to candidates from the systems of public election funding has left parties and their candidates heavily dependent on their ability to attract private contributors.

Failing city infrastructure plagues Bluevarian capital of Cyan

September 19, 2010

This could be another tough day for commuters in Cyan. This, after a 15-metre-long concrete slab dropped Sunday from the ceiling of a tunnel along the downtown Kalinka expressway. That prompted transport officials to knock down another unstable beam in the same tunnel yesterday. Amid public pressure yesterday, the Bluevarian government released a pair of alarming inspection reports conducted on the tunnel in 2008 and 2010. The 2008 study warned that the tunnel was in a "critical" general state concerning user safety and it recommended safety work to be done. It also warned that parts of a duct bank could collapse onto passing cars. Cyan's aging road network has forced lane closures on several overpasses and bridges this spring, as engineers scramble to deal with crumbling

infrastructure. The closed routes in Cyan have resulted in traffic-congestion nightmares across the city -- even at the oddest hours. Structural engineers say Cyan's woes are a warning for other Bluevarian cities of what could happen when a municipality doesn't have a solid maintenance plan in place -- from the very beginning.

EON terrorists blow up Greenmarkian tanker in the Strait of Hormuz

September 23, 2010

The ecoterrorist organization "Eradicate Oilrigs Now", also known as EON, has now claimed responsibility for yesterday's oil tanker highjacking and bombing in the Strait of Hormuz between Oman and Iran. The bombing killed all 28 crew members, and unleashed an estimated 3.5 million barrels of crude oil. The bombing is an environmental, economic, and political disaster for the region and the governments of both Oman and Iran have issued statements of condemnation for these actions. The aftereffects of this attack are likely to be felt around the world, as the Strait is a major shipping lane for the export of crude oil from the oil-producing region.

Greenmarkian Car Company unveils new electric car

August 5, 2010

Greenmark's automotive giant, Terra Motors, revealed its newest concept car at the Detroit Auto Show today -- The EL-Terra, an electric car with a range of 90 miles, and 160 hp engine. The car can quick-charge to 75% of battery capacity within 1 hour, and stylistically resembles the enormously popular Grand Terra cruiser that has been on the market for 4 years now. Although not yet on the market, "the day isn't very far away," stated Terra Motors spokeswoman Carmedy Hansen.

The World News

Autumn Edition 2010

125 killed in Air Orangea crash

October 5, 2010

The search for survivors has now been called off for Air Orangea flight 800 off the coast of South America, and all 125 passengers are assumed dead. The flight, scheduled to arrive in Washington, DC late Friday afternoon disappeared from radar shortly after takeoff from the Sanaranjo International airport while ascending to cruising altitude. No distress calls were made, strengthening speculations that the crash happened quickly with little time for pilot intervention. The black boxes which recorded the last words from the cockpit as well as flight measurements of speed, direction, and machine conditions, have still not been found, although locator beacon signals have been detected. The airline has set up bereavement centers and grief counselors to deal with the friends and family of the missing who have been at the airports in Sanaranjo and Washington since the accident occurred.

Yellowvanian mining equipment company sought by Chinese investors

October 29, 2010

Chinese-based mining equipment maker Chi Global Inc is in talks to buy Minas Mining Machinery Ltd, a maker of mining equipment in Yellowvania, a source familiar with the matter told the Daily World News on Thursday. Chi Global could not be reached for comment, while MMM declined comment. A deal would make strategic sense, partly because it would keep Chi Global's major competitor from gaining further scale in Yellowvania, Equity Research analyst Bob Mortensson said. If a deal is reached, it would become the latest in a string of acquisitions of Yellowvanian companies by foreign industrial enterprises in the past week.

Bluevarian animal research facility bombed

November 21, 2010

The Bluevarian Research Academy's Animal Physiology building, located off-campus in the Bluevarian countryside to accommodate research livestock, was bombed yesterday in a brazen attack by the ecoterrorist group "The Greener Good." Security staff onsite reported hearing the sound of a loud explosion at around 12:45 am, and saw that the Eastern end of the building was engulfed in flames by the time they came to investigate. A fire marshall's investigation late yesterday afternoon revealed that accelerants had been used to magnify the impact of the improvised explosive device left in the primate research lab sometime after the last employee left the site for the evening at 7 pm. In total, hundreds of research animals died in the bombing and subsequent fire, including 8 bonobo chimps and hundreds of mice participating in an AIDS vaccine trial. The bombing is claimed to have destroyed at least a decade's worth of collected research materials and preliminary findings or studies in progress by the Animal Physiology Head of Department, Gavin Doyle. "It's simply heart-breaking," Doyle commented after seeing the destruction for himself late yesterday afternoon.

Wikileaks releases 250,000 classified embassy cables

November 28, 2010

The United States was catapulted into a worldwide diplomatic crisis today, with the leaking to the Daily World News and other international media of more than 250,000 classified cables from its embassies. The secret dispatches, which were obtained by WikiLeaks, the whistleblowers' website, reveal Washington's evaluation of many highly sensitive international issues, including US directives to their embassy staff to actively spy on the UN leadership. The US has issued a statement of condemnation, stating, "Such disclosures put at risk our diplomats, intelligence professionals, and people around the

world who come to the US for assistance in promoting democracy and open government. By releasing stolen and classified documents, WikiLeaks has put at risk not only the cause of human rights but also the lives and work of these individuals."

Bluevaria and Russia sign South Stream Pipeline Agreement

November 15, 2010

Bluevaria has signed on to build part of the South Stream Pipeline that will eventually connect Russian gas with consumers in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, and Austria. The pipeline is expected to cost on the order of 26.7 billion US dollars, and is backed by Russia's Gazprom and Italian utility ENI. South Stream should allow Russia to strengthen its market share in Europe, and is expected to go online in 2015. In return, the Bluevarian government is hoping the direct and spinoff job creation aspect of the project will help Bluevaria exit its current economic recession after 2 years of stagnation.

Greenmark turns in impressive Ecotourism numbers for 2009

November 30, 2010

Visits to the ecotourist jungle lodges and photographic safaris are on the increase in Greenmark, if recent results of the Ecotourist Society of Greenmark's survey are any indication. Through voluntary survey participation, the society found that visits to the nation's ecotourist destinations was up 20% in 2009. This compared to an overall decrease of 3% for the tourism industry in general, highlighting the growing strength of this sector. The majority of number of visits could be attributed to the country's system of national parks, with out-of-country visitors making up over half of these visits. Park employee's attribute the increase in popularity with a new government-sponsored effort to promote

the parks at international travel fairs, offering discounts to park entrance fees to those with international passports.

Redonian Film Festival awards local production with Golden Megaphone

December 19, 2010

For the first time in its 11 year history, the Redonian Film Festival has awarded its highest honor in film, the Golden Megaphone, to a homegrown documentary: Sex, Lies, and Sneakers. The 4-man jury awarded the Golden Megaphone on closing night during the gala screening of what has come to be a fan favorite at the festival, already spawning a petition for safer working conditions for the forgotten impoverished female population of sex trade workers and sneaker assemblists working in the poor districts of Scarlett – Redonia's capital city. Calling the film "brave and compelling," jury head Vincent Barbossa lauded the first-time efforts of director Charlotte Charlemagne in bringing the gritty tale of 4 Redonian women working their way through the week leading up to the last Redonian election to the screen.

Orangea makes bid to host women's World Cup in 2023

December 20, 2010

Sanaranjo city councilors met last night to vote on a recommendation to support the Orangean Football association's bid to bring the FIFA women's World Cup of soccer to Orangea in 2023. The council unanimously passed the motion, setting the stage for a forthcoming bid. "We couldn't be more thrilled," stated councilor Juanita Diaz after the vote. "Orangea is a great soccer nation, and it is time to share our spirit with the rest of the world," she continued.

Three Orangeans arrested on drug smuggling charges

March 3, 2010

Brian Silva, Josef Drost and Richard Gladstone were arrested Monday off the coast of Germany on charges of drug smuggling. The three men were aboard a yacht carrying approximately 100 kilos of cannabis resin, attempting to make berth in Hamburg when they were apprehended by local law enforcement officers. Though by no means the largest drug bust of the year, the apprehension of Brian Silva is of particular significance, due to his previously suspected links to Bluevarian Organized Crime through its network of drug traffickers. The trio are being held at an undisclosed local jail under heavy surveillance while a preliminary court date is set.

Yellowvanian FIU identify additional funds linked to Dvorak insurance fraud

February 4, 2011

The recent arrest of Orangean citizen Richard Jackson has brought to light new information in the Roger Dvorak defrauding scheme against First Insurance International. Though initially suspected of having defrauded the insurance company of more than \$108,000,000 US, very little of this money was ever recovered in the course of the original criminal trial seven years ago. However, it appears that Dvorak's lawyer hired Jackson to launder the unidentified funds, until his arrest several months ago. The Yellowvanian prosecution in the case is currently seeking the maximum incarceration for this crime for both Jackson, and Dvorak's lawyer, Sid Wesley. Assets amounting to roughly \$7,000,000 US have been confiscated and will be returned to First Insurance International once their provenance has been confirmed.

Rodrigo Suarez sentenced in \$1.2 million Ponzi scheme

March 5, 2011

The Orangean attorney's office have accepted a plea bargain from Rodrigo Suarez, 42, in which he acknowledged stealing \$1.2 million US dollars from his investment clients in a ponzi scheme run out of his offices in Sanaranjo. He will spend 3 years in prison for mail fraud. For several years, Suarez had kept about a dozen investors distracted with phony statements while using their money for his own personal pursuits. The investigation revealed that Suarez had spent the stolen money on two vacation homes in South America, a leased luxury car, and a \$400,000 yacht. Orangean FIU detectives finally tracked Suarez down to a small town in Costa Rica, where he and his girlfriend had fled with the proceeds of their crime, opening a small hotel called "The Seacrest."

European Union lifts more Greenmark Sanctions

May 18, 2011

An EU diplomat announced that the bloc would be ending measures against 16 entities and 32 people – including the foreign and justice ministers – in Greenmark. The EU lifted 21 sanctions last year, noting that the government was making “measurable progress” in addressing its economic crisis. However, President Jules N’Dong and 60 members of his inner circle remain the subject of sanctions including asset freezes and travel bans to European countries. While travel bans against the Greenmarkian foreign and justice ministers were lifted to allow them to visit Brussels for talks, their assets remain frozen. US human rights advocates Human Rights Watchers had earlier urged the EU to keep the sanctions in place, arguing that lifting the sanctions would send the wrong message.

New Greenmarkian mortgage rules come into effect

June 12, 2011

Effective the beginning of this week, new mortgage rules come into effect in Greenmark, reducing the amortization period to 30 years for government-backed insured mortgages, and lowering the maximum amount homeowners can borrow when refinancing their mortgages to 90% of the value of their home. At a news conference in Veridian, government spokesman Jules LeBreton said the measures were being enacted in order to encourage saving through home ownership and reduce the exposure of home owners to financial risks. Experts warn that the added carrying costs resulting from the shorter amortization periods could price many lower income Greenmarkians out of the housing market. The new legislation is expected to put a chill on the housing market, with the average home price expected to weaken by at least 1% this year alone.

Escobar convicted of terrorist plotting in Greenmark

June 12, 2011

In what is seen as a major step forward for the Greenmarkian government in terms of capturing and successfully prosecuting Greener Good terrorists, Miles Escobar was found guilty, on Thursday, of plotting to blow up the West wing of the Greenmarkian Presidential Palace in February of this last year. Using funds provided by, among others, Greenmarkian citizen Neil Burgess, Escobar purchased explosive, incendiary devices, remote detonators, and obtained tour schedules and palace maps in his bid to “cause widespread fear, panic, and destabilize the ruling party,” as revealed by his unposted Youtube video, recovered from his rented apartment on Veridian’s lower East side. Escobar’s claims that the materials belonged to an unapprehended coconspirator, who blackmailed him into unwilling participation, went unheeded. “This conviction marks a turning point in Greenmark’s war against terror,” said the minister in charge of homeland security. “We have demonstrated our resolve to catch and convict those who would work to destroy our country’s freedoms and liberties.”

Maze Ltd. faces criminal proceedings

July 15, 2011

The British Internet gambling company Maize Ltd has launched a corporate lawsuit against the Purpleanian clone company Maze Ltd for trademark infringement, after a Purpleanean FIU probe revealed profits in excess of one million USD were being illegally funneled from Maze Ltd. subsidiaries in several EU countries to the personal bank account of company CEO, John Calts. Calts has been unavailable for comment, however Maze Ltd. spokeswoman Mary Brown continues to deny any wrongdoing on the part of Maze Ltd., despite additional allegations that Maze Ltd. did not even possess proper licences to offer legal gaming services in several of its countries of operation. "We are confident that the litigation will expose the lack of merit in Maize Ltd's claims," Brown stated.

Bluevarian Football League referee accused of match fixing

July 16, 2011

In a televised exposition piece on Bluevarian national television, 3 Bluevarian Football League (BFL) referees have come forward to accuse referee Jorgen Schultz of match fixing. The investigative reporters were able to confirm that Schultz had been regularly meeting with a pair of brothers involved in a gambling syndicate connected to Bluevarian Organized Crime. The matches in question included a first round elimination contest between football powerhouse Cyan and relegation-threatened Blauhaus FC, during which two very questionable penalties were awarded against Cyan, resulting in an astonishing 3-2 victory for Blauhuas FC. In response, as witnesses against Schultz, all three referees have been removed from active duty by the BFL, and the refereeing duty roster for the coming weekend of play has been completely rewritten. This latest scandal may represent as much as 1.8 million Euro in fixed proceeds, and is likely to contribute to the growing perception that the BFL is a publicly subsidized money laundering vehicle for Bluevarian Organized Crime.

Yellowvanian crown prince falls ill with chest pains

September 1, 2011

Crown Prince Ahmed, 57, was taken to hospital in Jaune, suffering chest pains after a night of active duty at a royal event in the capital city. Investigations at the cardiothoracic unit of the Jaune Grand General Hospital revealed a blocked coronary artery. A successful surgery placed a coronary stent in Prince Ahmed's blocked artery, resolving the issue for now. The prince has been placed on bed rest, and will not attend this week's golden jubilee celebrations for his father, King Muhammad, at the royal palace.

Sasha Sakic convicted on money laundering charges

September 12, 2011

Bluevarian citizen Sasha Sakic was convicted on money laundering charges on Tuesday and now faces a possible prison sentence. Mr Sakic, 43, faces up to life in

prison for the money laundering conviction. Sentencing is expected just before Easter. Mr. Bill Stewart, Sakic' attorney, was "tremendously disappointed" with the verdict, which he vowed to appeal. It is speculated that the demonstrated links between Mr. Sakic and Bluevarian Organized Crime will politicize this sentencing process, with government officials privately pressuring Judge Ernst Belfour to apply the maximum sentence in this case. Stewart, however, is warning against the dangers of succumbing to the wills of "a kangaroo court" and is adamant that the verdict will be overturned in appeal.

HATS hosts gala ball in Redonian Capital

January 6, 2012

"An African Safari" was the theme for the 5th annual Human-Animal Tolerance Society's (HATS) gala ball held on February 11th of this year at the National Residence Hotel in the Redonian capital of Scarlett. Over 300 people were in attendance, as host and member of the board, Sandeep Patel, presided over the festivities, which included the Yellowvavian a cappella group "Momma Africa" and Redonian aboriginal dancers. The evening was a huge success, raising over \$60,000, but was not without controversy, as recent investigative features by the Redonian National News Network have implicated HATS' international branch, HEAT (Humans for Ethical Animal Treatment), in the funding of the terrorist organization "The Greener Good." Patel refuted the accusation, calling it an "unwarranted smear campaign designed to disrupt the evening's more important activities."

Redonia debates new cybersecurity legislation

January 30, 2012

Hard on the heels of the failed SOPA and PIPA legislation attempts in the United States, Redonian government representatives have been busy debating their own cybersecurity omnibus bill, aimed at cracking down on illegal downloading and streaming of movies and TV shows. The omnibus bill, backed strongly by key players in the entertainment industry, has been declared to be an attack on the internet as a platform for free speech, as it allows for federal officials to unilaterally shut down sites without due process. Tech observers warn that another retaliatory blackout protest, such as the one led by Wikipedia and several other large internet shareholders in the face of SOPA, may be in the works. For now, public opinion seems to be largely on the side of the anti-cybersecurity bill faction.

German President resigns over home loan scandal

February 18, 2012

German president Christian Wulff resigned Friday in the face of calls for his immunity to be lifted by German prosecutors. The matter in question regards a home loan Wulff received from the wife of a prominent businessman when he was premier of Lower Saxony. Bild newspaper was the first to break the story in December, which centered around a low interest 500,000 euro loan received from Mrs. Geerkens, the wife of businessman Egon Geerkens – a man Wulff had denied having any business relations with when questioned in Parliament. Chancellor Angela Merkel accepted his resignation “with respect but also with regret”. She said Wulff was convinced he had acted “legally correctly” but was “stepping back from the office” – one which is largely ceremonial. On Thursday, prosecutors in Hanover, capital of Lower Saxony, asked the president of the German Bundestag to lift the president’s immunity. This move is formally required to begin proceedings against Wulff, although it does not necessarily mean that he will be charged.

Media frenzy over Hong Kong hopeful’s illegal basement

February 20, 2012

Henry Tang, the man tipped by many to be Hong Kong’s next chief executive, is the subject of a media frenzy over an illegally built basement on his property that he claims was his wife’s idea. The seemingly minor scandal has seen local media outlets besiege the Tang property in Kowloon district. In land-scarce Hong Kong, the reportedly 200 sq meter basement is said to include an entertainment suite, Jacuzzi and wine cellar. Slow to respond to these allegations, Tang denied trying to cover up the affair, stating that he was merely trying to protect his wife. “I ask the people of Hong Kong to give me a chance to serve the people,” Tang stated. Mr. Tang is said to be the favored candidate in Beijing to take Hong Kong’s top civil servant job.